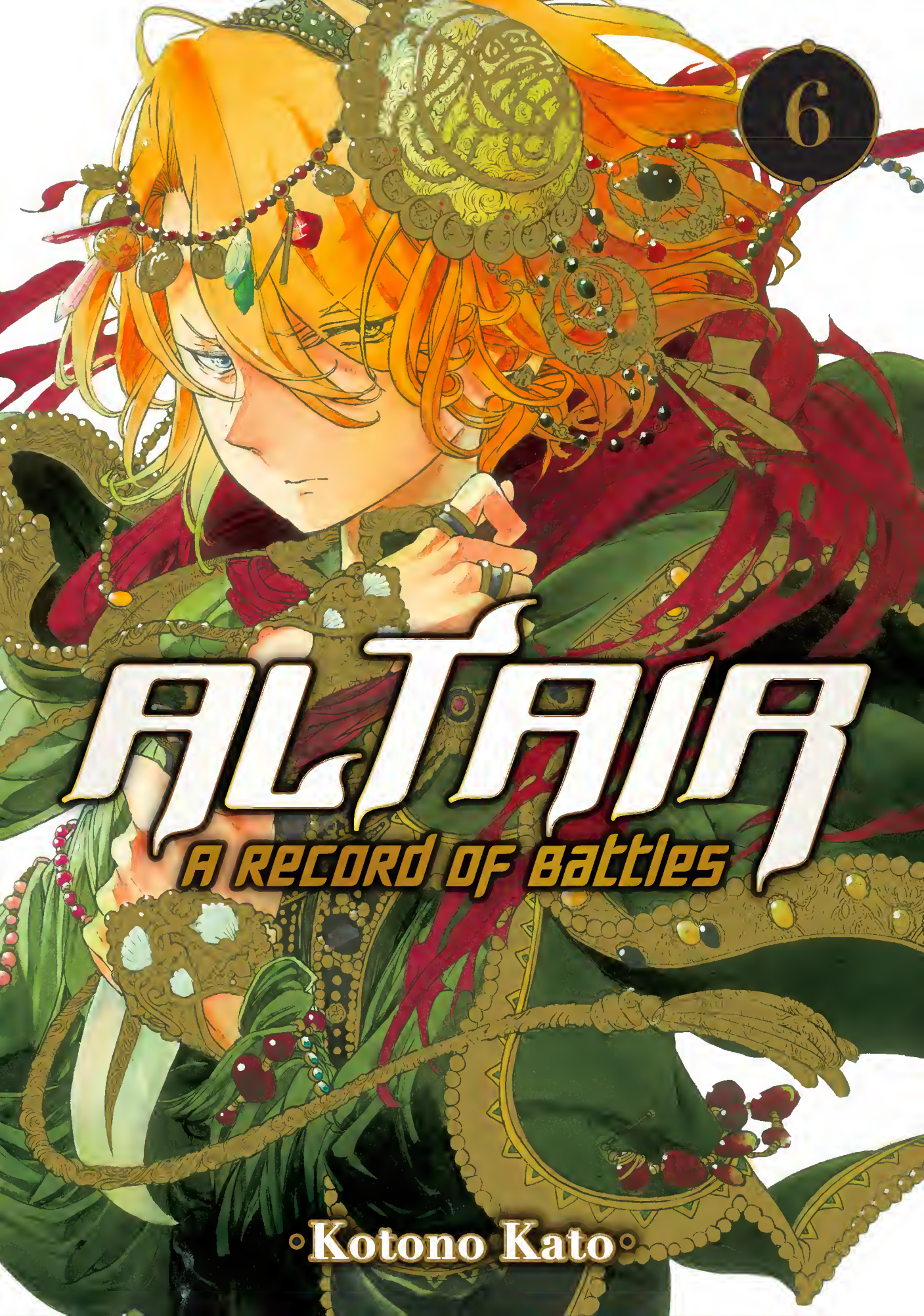

6
ALTAIR
A RECORD OF BATTLES
Kotono Kato

ALTAIR
A RECORD OF BATTLES

vol. 6

Art and story by
Kotono Kato

WORLD & CHARACTER GUIDE of FALTAIR

Balt-Rhein Empire

Minister of the Balt-Rhein Empire. Seeks to expand the empire through various schemes.

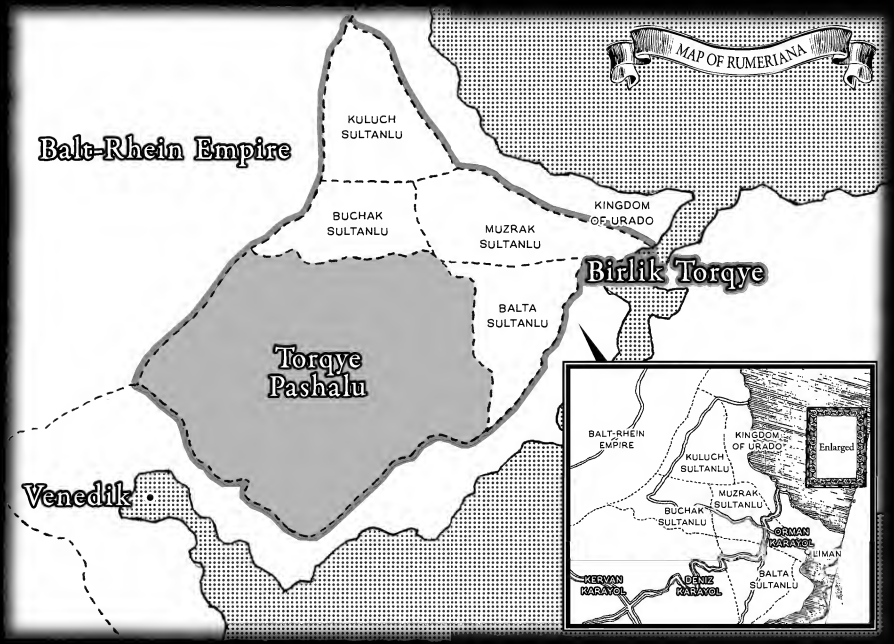
Muzrak Sultanlu

Working with the Empire to unfetter his nation from Torqye.

Balaban's younger brother. Working with Mahmut to reform Balaban's leadership policy.

Balta Sultanlu

Daughter of the sultana. Working with Mahmut to thwart her mother, who has allied with Balaban.



Torqye Pashalu

Formerly Torqye's youngest pasha until he was demoted to binbashu.

A spy belonging to the Eyes and Ears. Son of the Kaisaras of Phoinike.

Head of the private army of Venedik's Brega Company. Acts as a conduit between Torqye and Venedik.

One of the thirteen ruling generals and the mastermind behind the plot to overthrow the Dert Sultanluk.

Chief of the Eyes and Ears, Zaganos's personal spy network.

The story so far.

Balt-Rhein's Minister Louis has put his new scheme into motion: Buchak, and Balta, from Birlik Torqye. After discovering that is given a secret order from the Divan to incite an armed rebellion Mahmut overcome these dire straits?!

The divorce of Torqye's ancestral brothers, Muzrak, Kuluch, Sultan Balaban of Muzrak is working with the Empire, Mahmut with the sultanlu and force Balaban to abdicate the throne. How will

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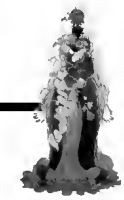

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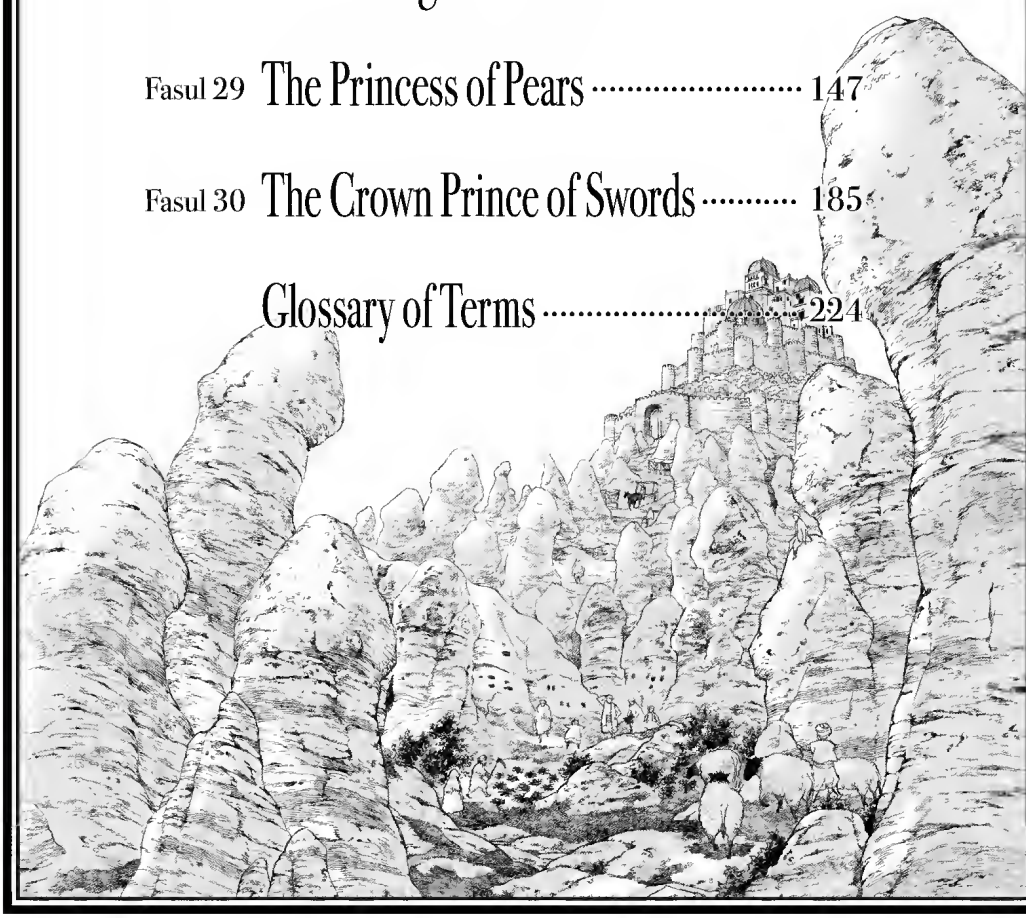
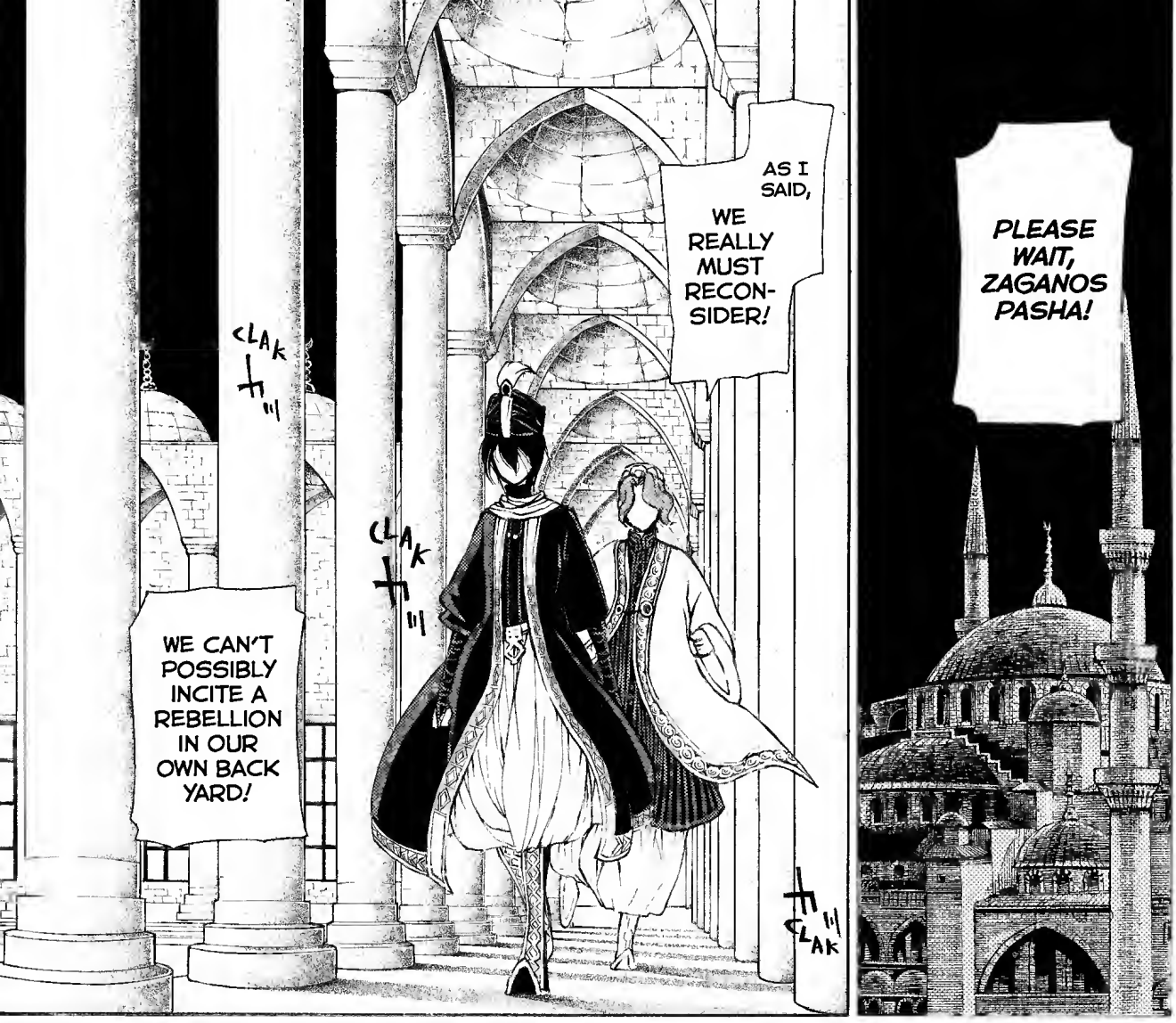



PLEASE WAIT, ZAGANOS PASHA!
AS I SAID, WE REALLY MUST RECONSIDER!
WE CAN'T POSSIBLY INCITE A REBELLION IN OUR OWN BACK YARD!

THE MERE THOUGHT OF KILLING...
...OUR NOMADIC BROTHERS...
...I DARE NOT EVEN CONSIDER IT!
Zehir
Zaganos Pasha
VEZIR
1ST EYALET IDARECI

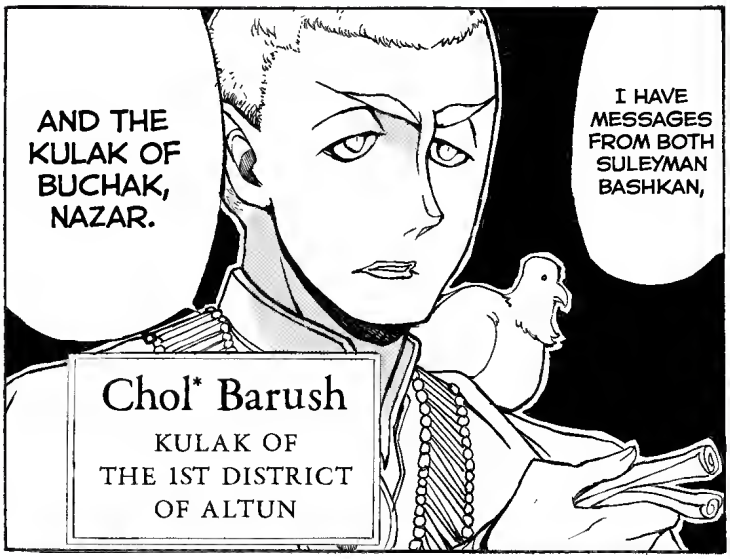
Tesisat-Kapu*
Saluja Pasha
VEZIR
3RD EYALET IDARECI

*TESISAT-KAPU: FLOODGATE.

SALUJA PASHA.

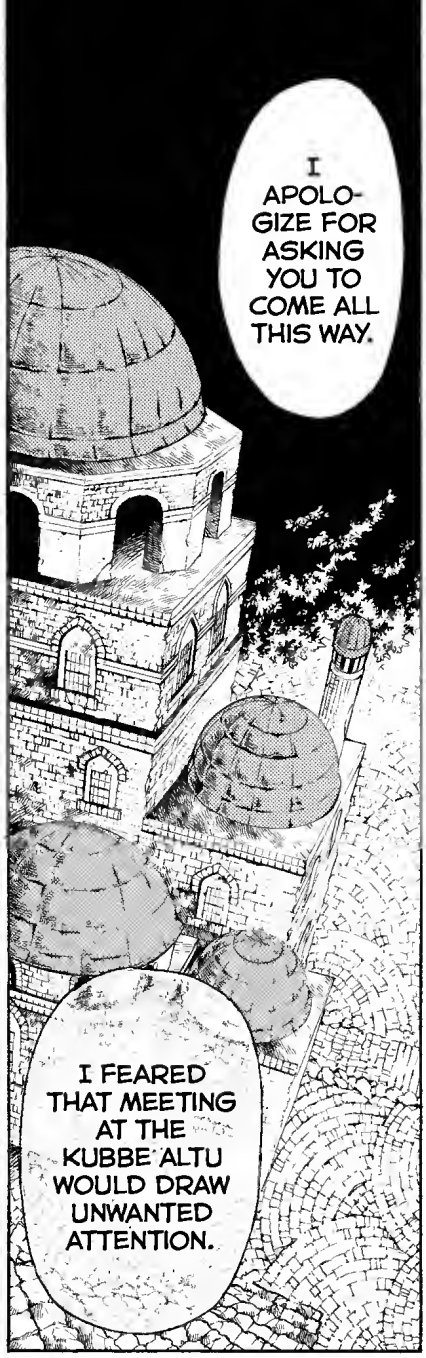
WA-
FRUMP
WAIT! I'M NOT FINISHED!
!
BAM
SORRY, BUT UNLIKE YOU,
I CAN'T AFFORD TO STOP THINKING.

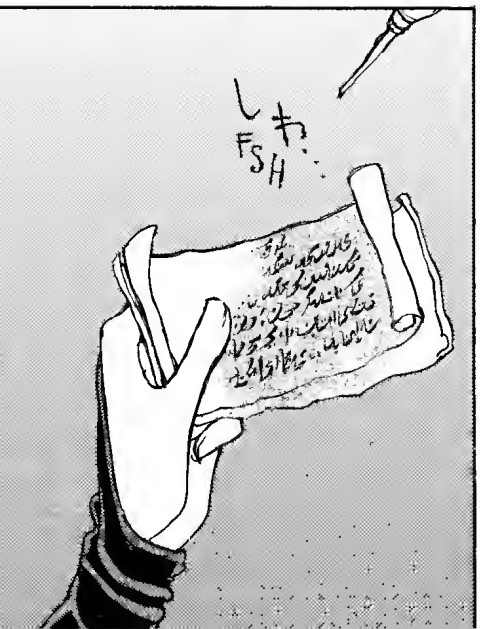
Fasul 25 The Sultanlu of Daggers


I HAVE MESSAGES FROM BOTH SULEYMAN BASHKAN,
AND THE KULAK OF BUCHAK, NAZAR.
Chol* Barush
KULAK OF THE 1ST DISTRICT OF ALTUN

*CHOL: DESERT.

GOOD WORK.


I APOLOGIZE FOR ASKING YOU TO COME ALL THIS WAY.
I FEARED THAT MEETING AT THE KUBBE ALTU WOULD DRAW UNWANTED ATTENTION.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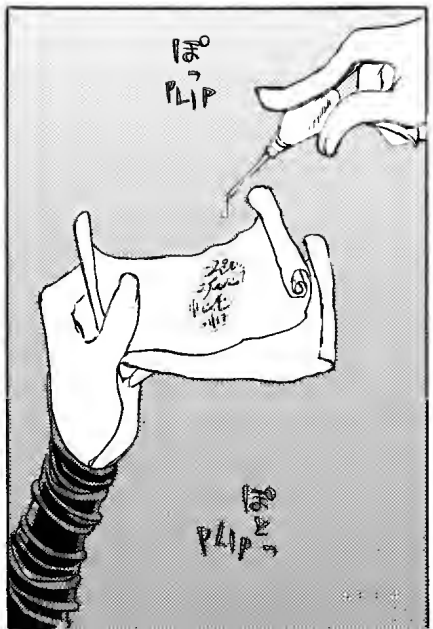
FSH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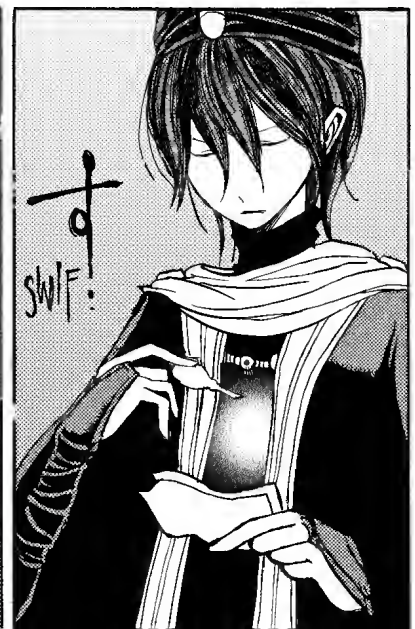
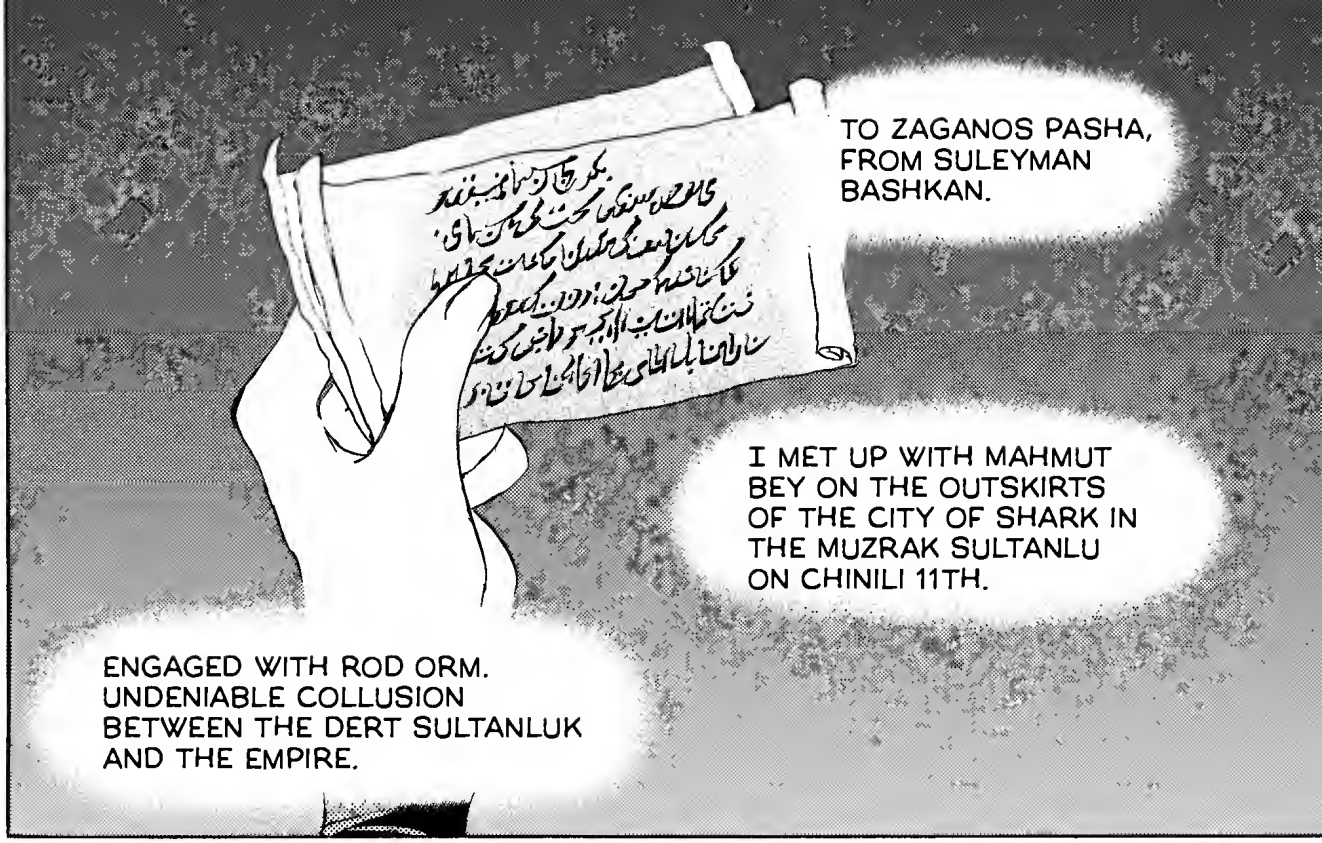
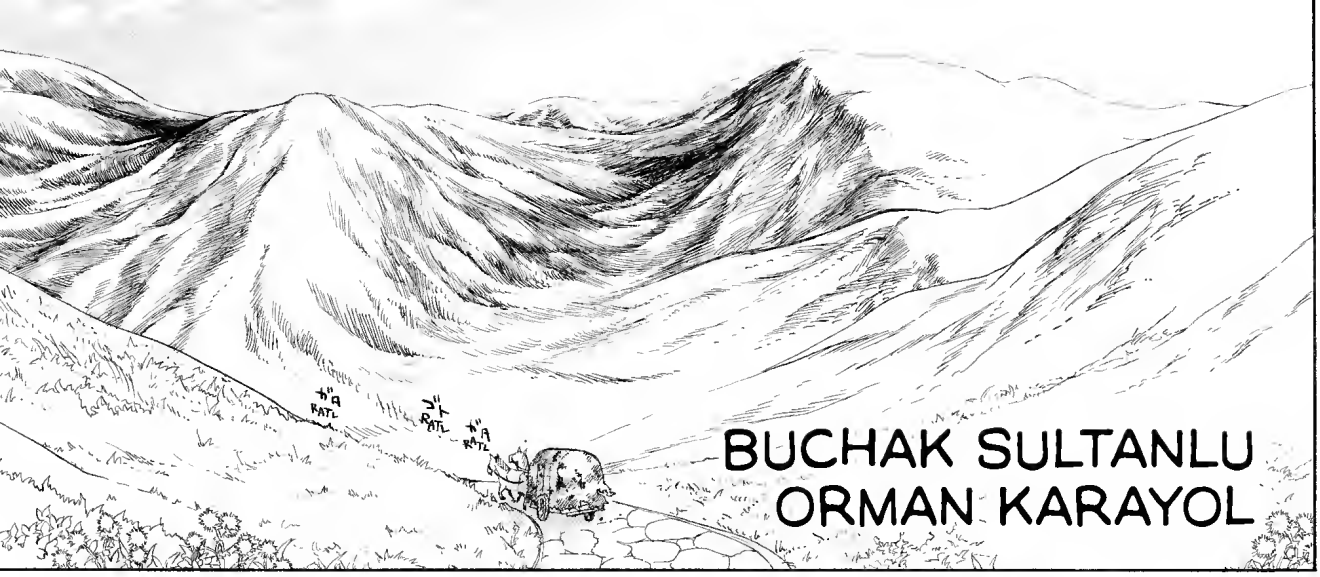
PLIP
ぽと
PLIP


SWIF!


TO ZAGANOS PASHA, FROM SULEYMAN BASHKAN.
I MET UP WITH MAHMUT BEY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY OF SHARK IN THE MUZRAK SULTANLU ON CHINILI 11TH.
ENGAGED WITH ROD ORM. UNDENIABLE COLLUSION BETWEEN THE DERT SULTANLUK AND THE EMPIRE.

TO ZAGANOS PASHA, FROM KULAK NAZAR.
RSTL

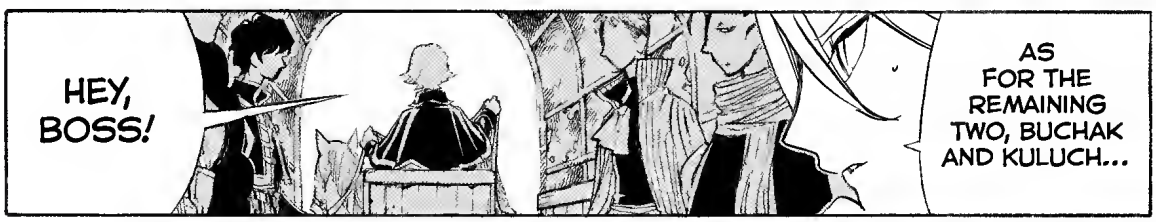
!

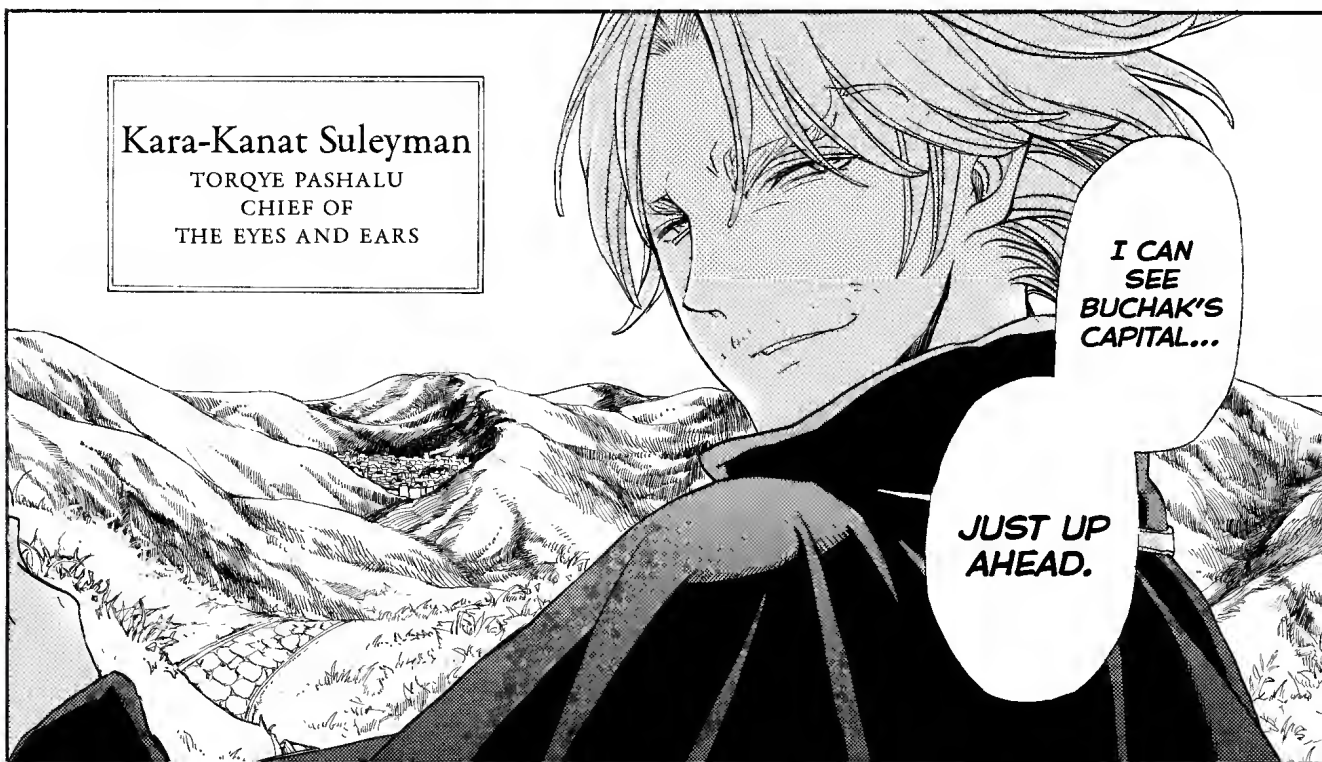

RATL
RATL
RATL
BUCHAK SULTANLU
ORMAN KARAYOL

RATL
CLUNK
CLUNK
RATL

CLATR
...IS TO REPLACE THE CURRENT SULTANS WITH FIGURES WHO ARE PRO-TORQYE.
CLUNK
THE GOAL OF OUR REBELLION...
Tughril Mahmut
TORQYE PASHALU
BINBASH

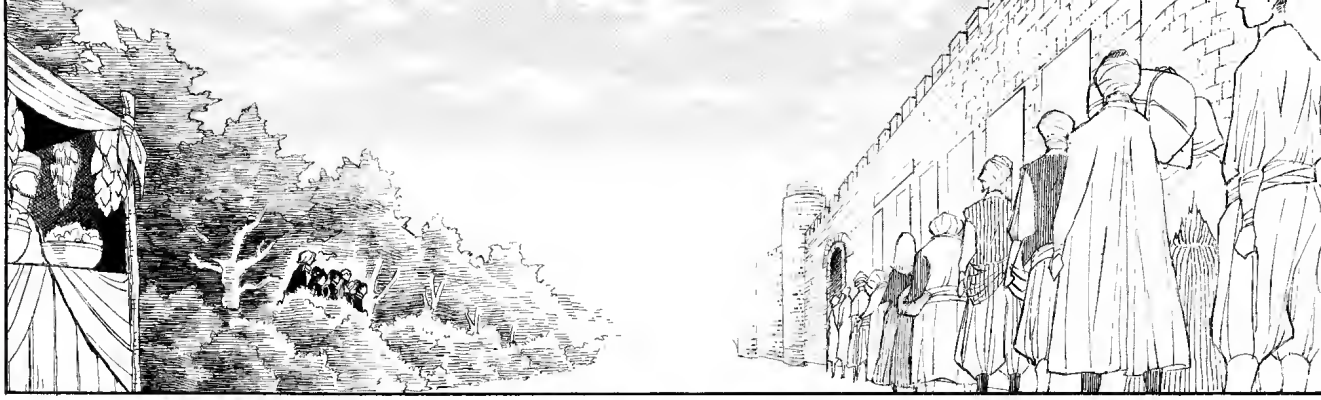
THE TWO OF YOU...
WILL SUCCEED THE THRONES OF MUZRAK AND BALTA, RESPECTIVELY.
Prenses
Armut Aishe
BALTA SULTANLU
DAUGHTER OF
THE SULTANA
Beyolu
Silahtar Beyazit
MUZRAK SULTANLU
YOUNGER BROTHER
OF THE SULTAN


HEY, BOSS!
AS FOR THE REMAINING TWO, BUCHAK AND KULUCH...

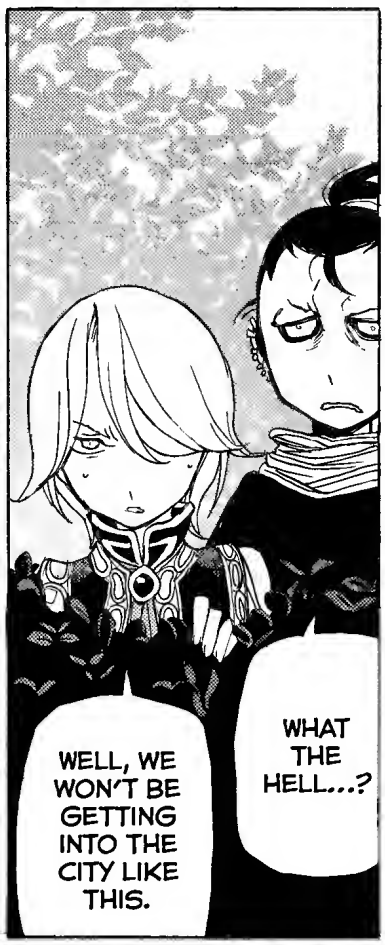

Kara-Kanat Suleyman
TORQYE PASHALU
CHIEF OF
THE EYES AND EARS
I CAN SEE BUCHAK'S CAPITAL...
JUST UP AHEAD.

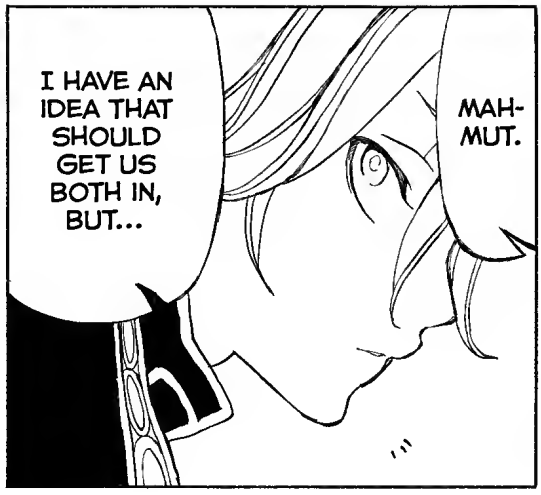
WELP,
LET'S JUST HOPE WE FIND SOME PRO-TORQYE ROYALTY HERE.
THE CAPITAL OF THE BUCHAK SULTANLU
MUCEHVER
HM?
HUH?!
DON'T TELL ME WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS TO GET IN!
OOF. WHAT'S WITH THE LINE?

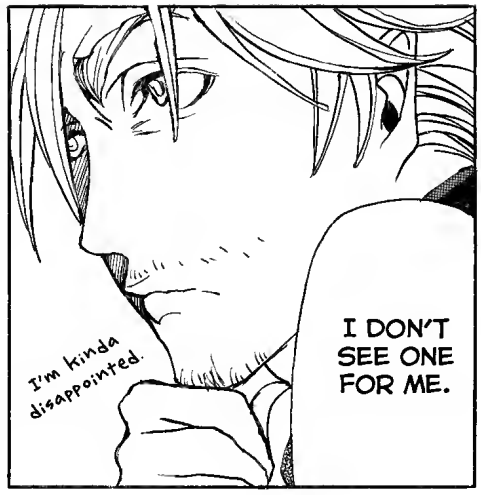
So he looks like this, huh?
Isn't this mahmur Pashas
...?
SOME KIND OF CRIMINAL ON THE LOOSE?
...?
SHUT UP AND GET IN!
I'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN TO MUZRAK!
WE'VE BEEN ORDERED TO APPREHEND ANYONE WHO LOOKS SUSPICIOUS!
HEY! LET ME GO!
HUH?
HEY, DOESN'T HE LOOK LIKE THE PICTURE?
!
NOTICE:
5 REBELS SURFACE IN MUZRAK
IF SIGHTED, PLEASE NOTIFY THE PALACE OR NEAREST OFFICER.



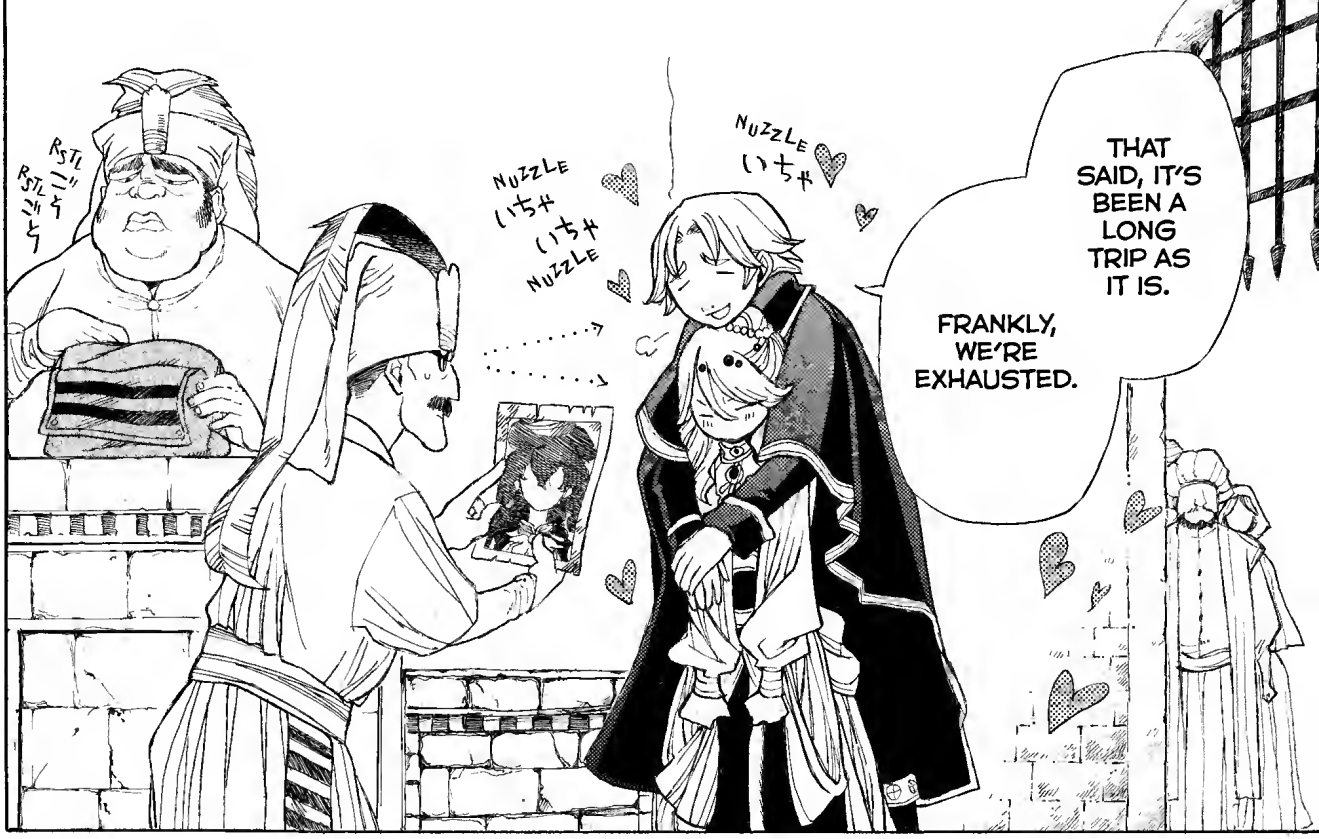
I MUST SAY, THEY'RE QUITE BEAUTIFUL.
THOSE ARE BY THE IMPERIAL COURT PAINTER MY BROTHER EMPLOYS!
NOT EVEN 50 SERIFS IS ENOUGH TO BUY ONE OF HIS PIECES.
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE!
HMM...

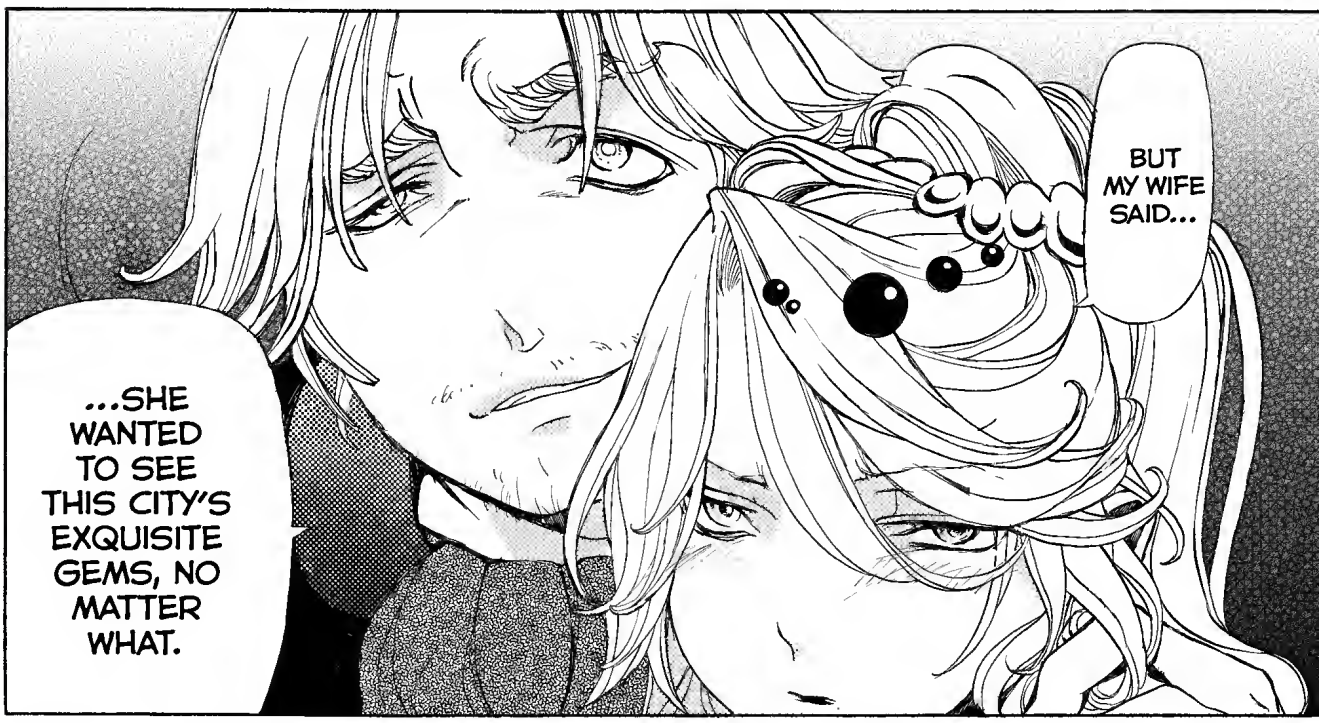

WHAT THE HELL...?
WELL, WE WON'T BE GETTING INTO THE CITY LIKE THIS.

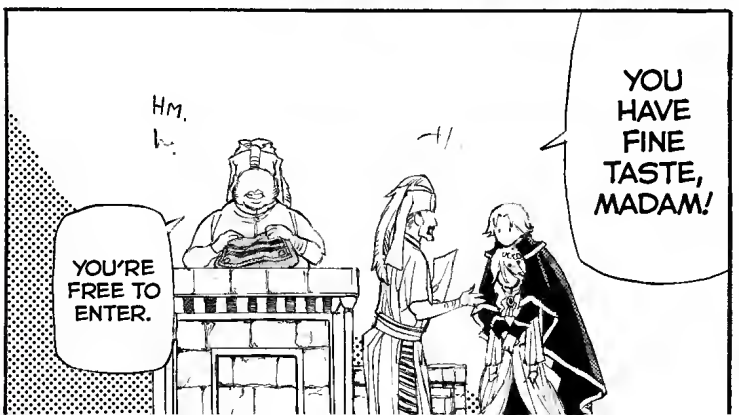

MAH-MUT.
I HAVE AN IDEA THAT SHOULD GET US BOTH IN, BUT...

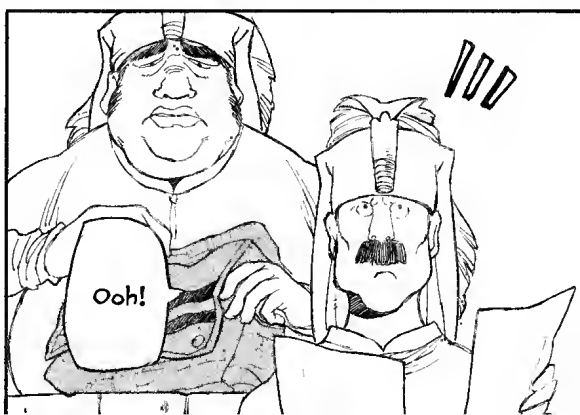

I DON'T SEE ONE FOR ME.
I'm kinda disappointed.

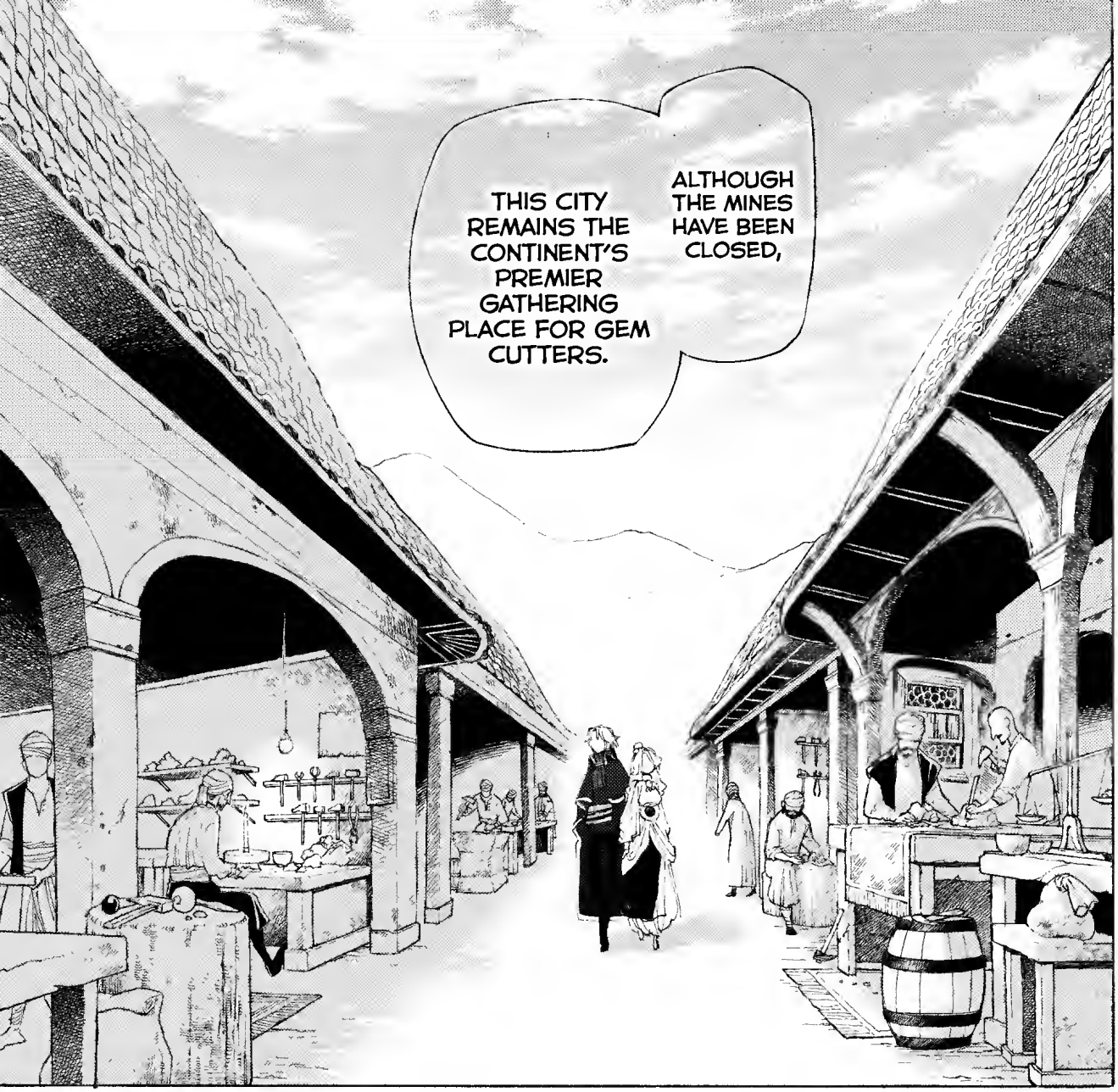
NEXT!
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
WE'RE ON OUR HONEY-MOON!

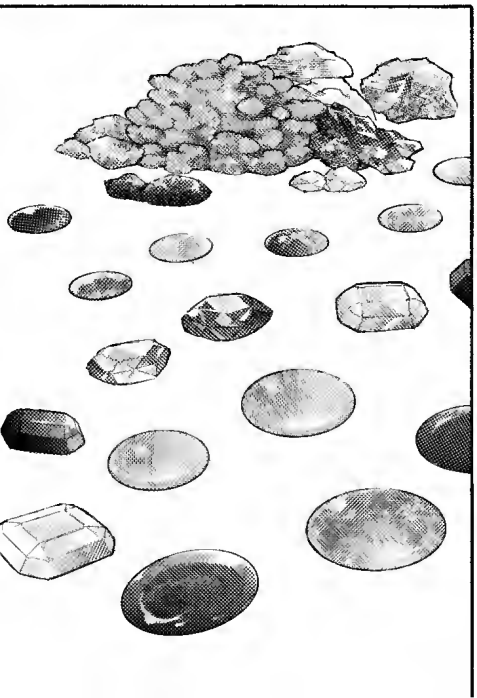

THAT SAID, IT'S BEEN A LONG TRIP AS IT IS.
FRANKLY, WE'RE EXHAUSTED.
NUZZLE いちか
NUZZLE いちか
NUZZLE いちか
RSTL ごろ
RSTL ごろ

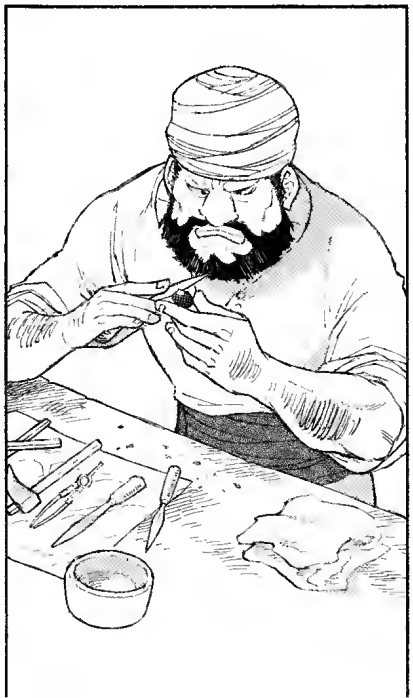

BUT MY WIFE SAID...
...SHE WANTED TO SEE THIS CITY'S EXQUISITE GEMS, NO MATTER WHAT.

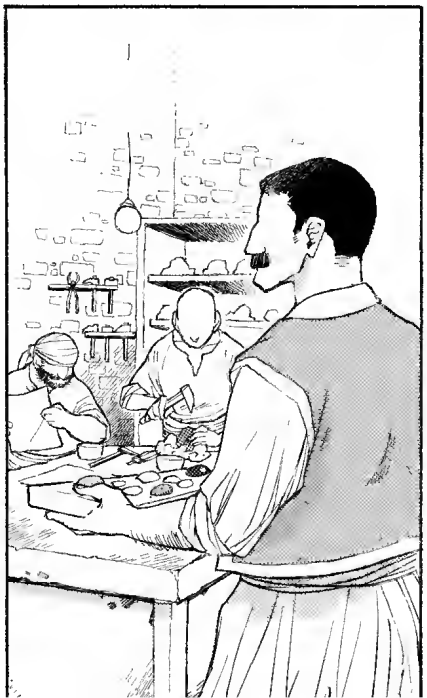

YOU HAVE FINE TASTE, MADAM!
HM.
YOU'RE FREE TO ENTER.

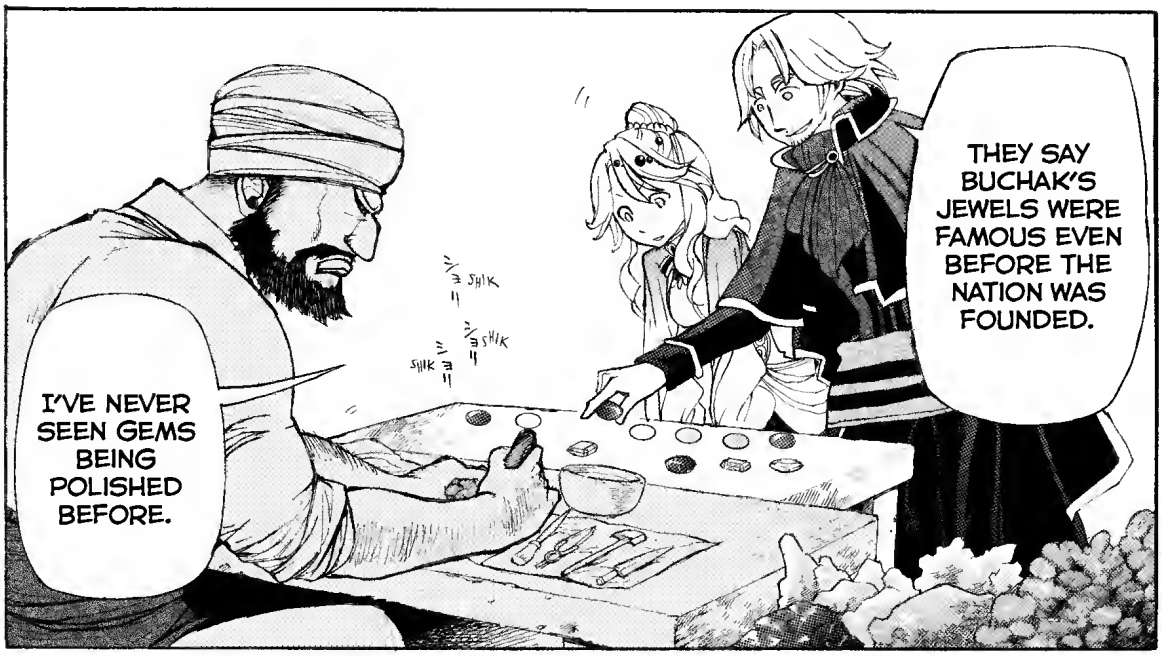

Ooh!

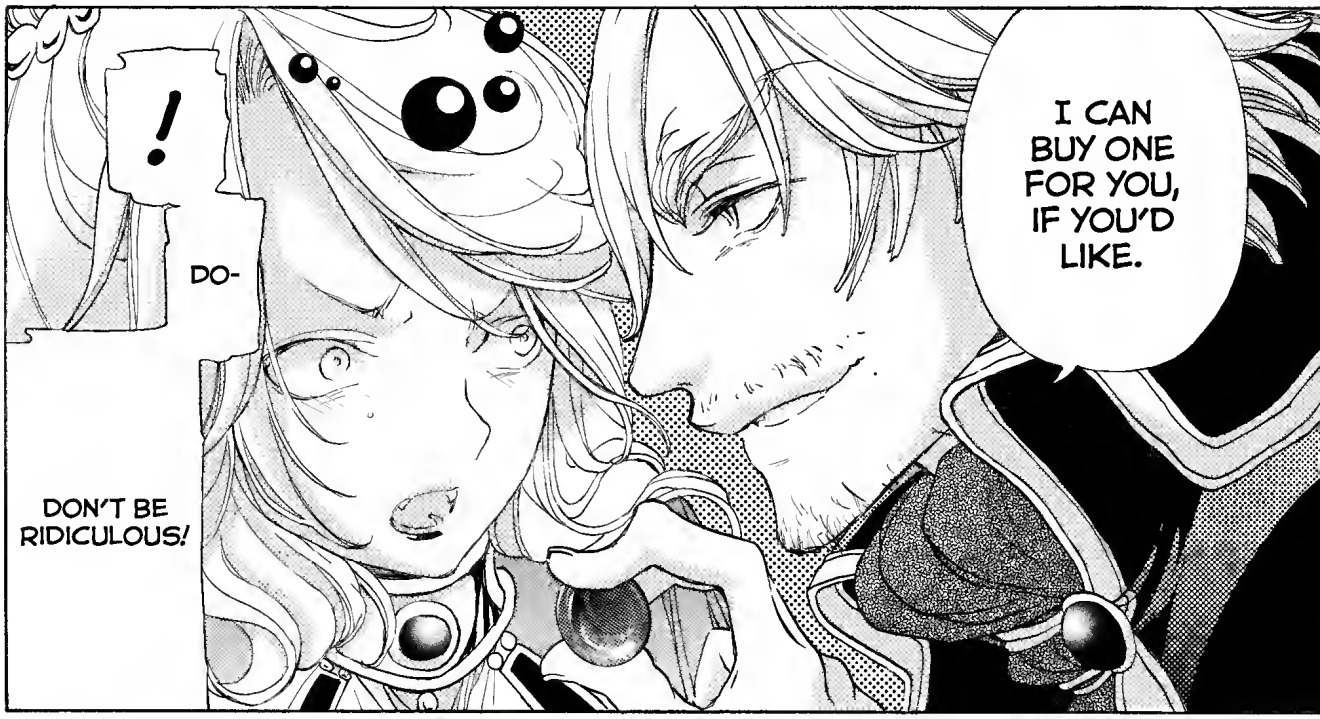

ALTHOUGH THE MINES HAVE BEEN CLOSED,
THIS CITY REMAINS THE CONTINENT'S PREMIER GATHERING PLACE FOR GEM CUTTERS.

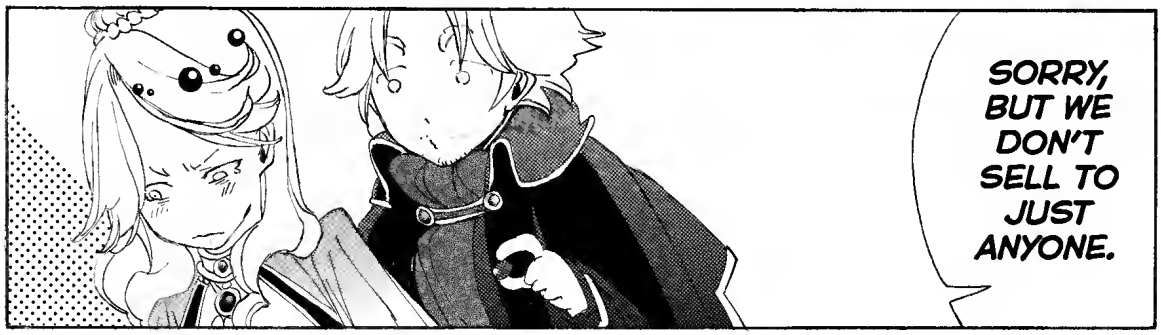


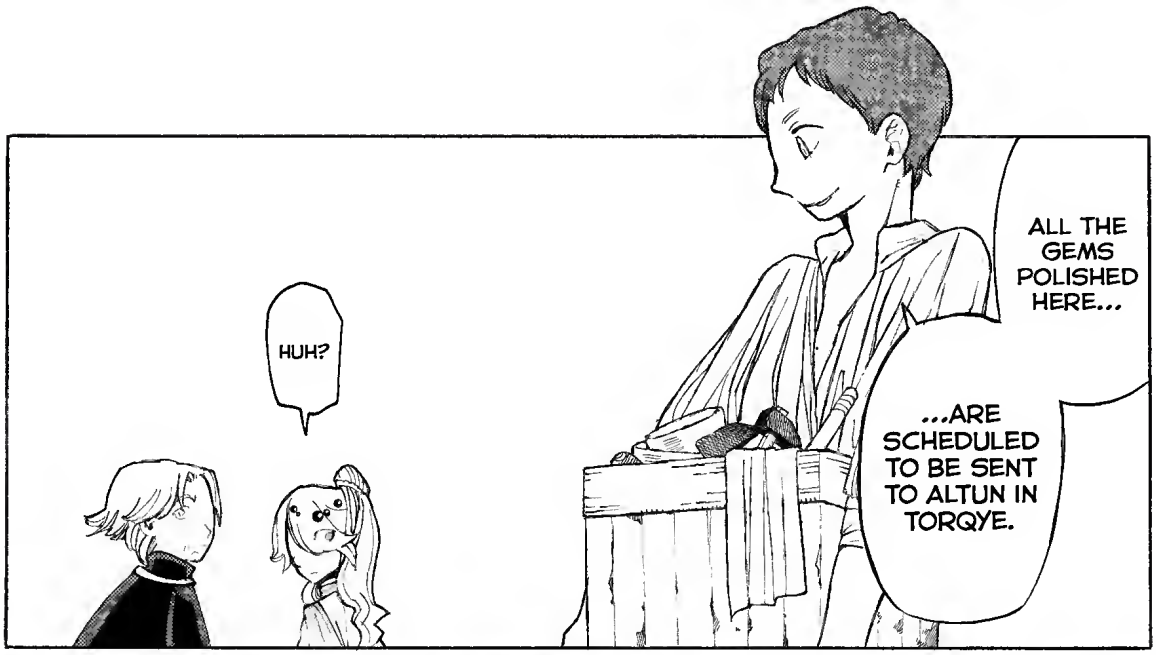




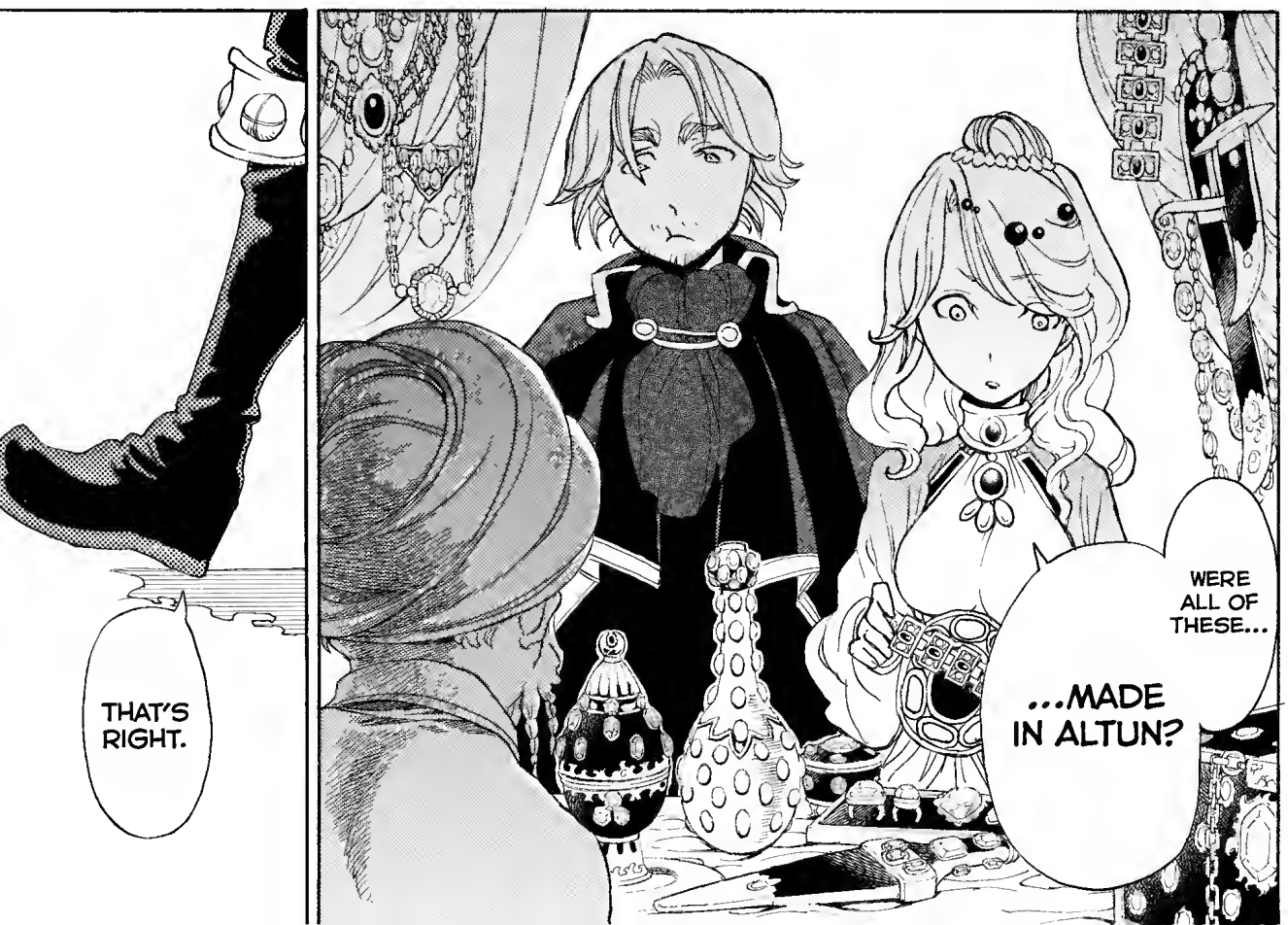

THEY SAY BUCHAK'S JEWELS WERE FAMOUS EVEN BEFORE THE NATION WAS FOUNDED.
I'VE NEVER SEEN GEMS BEING POLISHED BEFORE.
SHIK
SHIK
SHIK


I CAN BUY ONE FOR YOU, IF YOU'D LIKE.
!
DO-
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!

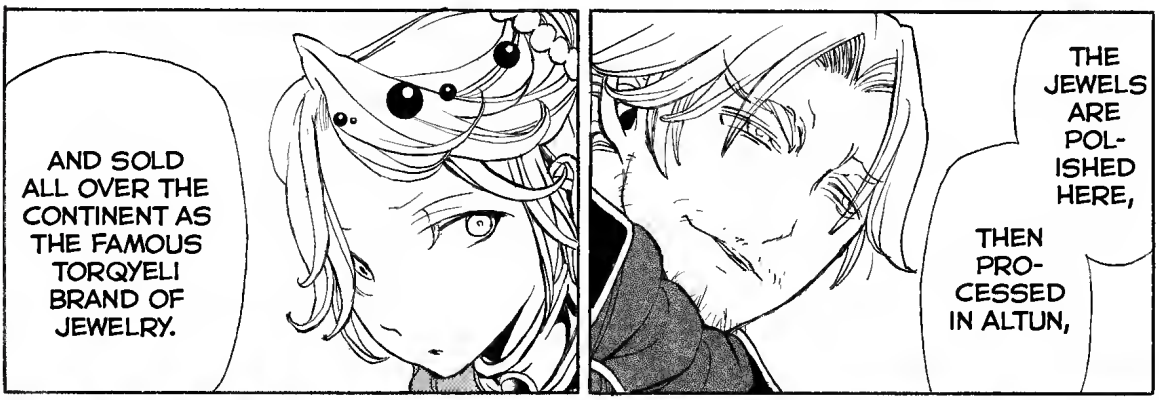

SORRY, BUT WE DON'T SELL TO JUST ANYONE.


ALL THE GEMS POLISHED HERE...
...ARE SCHEDULED TO BE SENT TO ALTUN IN TORQYE.
HUH?

IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO SHOP,
TRY THE JEWELRY BAZAAR OVER THERE!

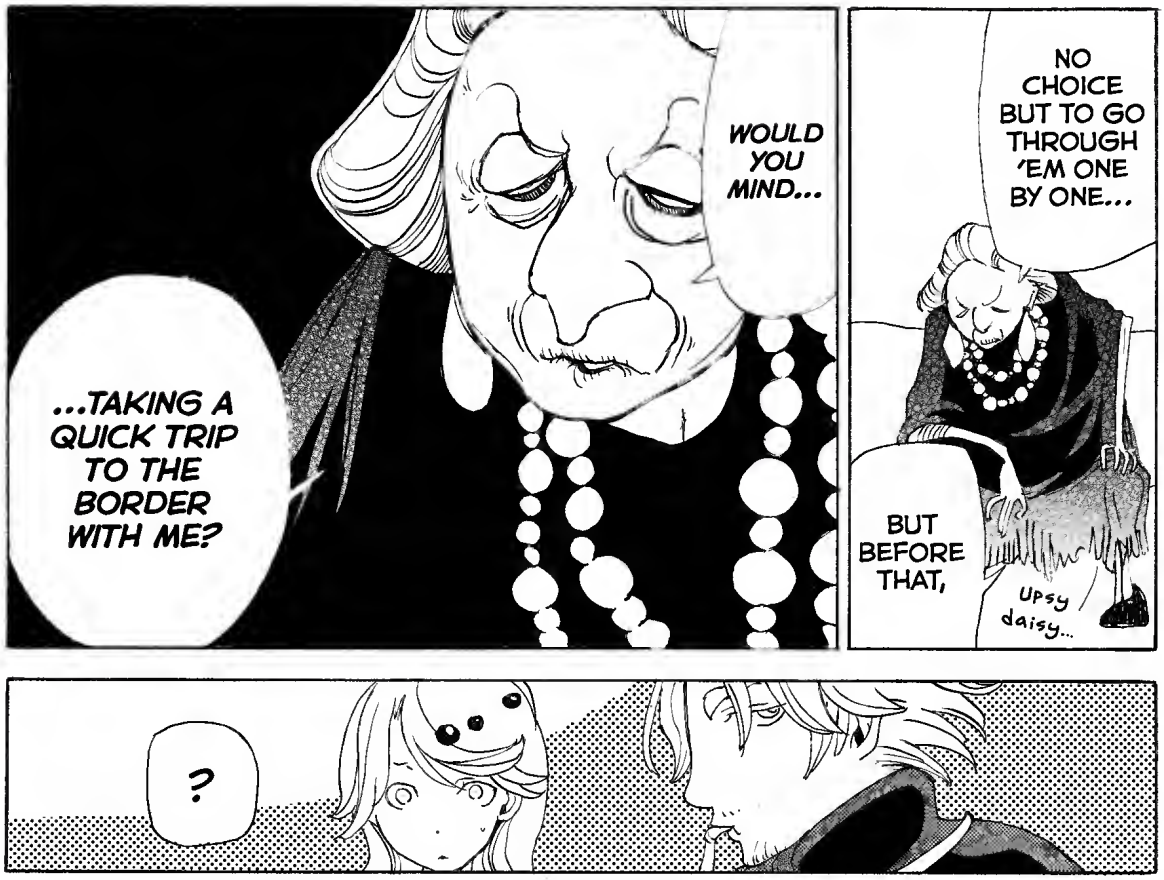

WERE ALL OF THESE...
...MADE IN ALTUN?
THAT'S RIGHT.

ALL THE WORLD'S HIGHEST QUALITY RAW STONES...
...MAKE THEIR WAY HERE TO MUCEHVER.


THE JEWELS ARE POL-ISHED HERE,
THEN PRO-CESSED IN ALTUN,
AND SOLD ALL OVER THE CONTINENT AS THE FAMOUS TORQYELI BRAND OF JEWELRY.

THE STONES WE SAW COULDN'T FETCH EVEN THREE SERIFS ALONE,
BUT ONCE TURNED INTO TORQYELI JEWELRY,
PIECES GO FOR A MINIMUM OF 30 SERIFS.
WELL, THAT BUSINESS WILL ALL GO UP IN SMOKE...
IF BIRLIK TORQYE ENDS UP BREAKING APART.

SHUF DUJ
!
Hey!
WELL, LOOK WHO IT IS...
Nargile Nazar
KULAK OF MUCEHVER
PRO-TORQYE ROYALTY?
...HAS 77 CHILDREN.
WHO KNOWS?
AFTER ALL, BUCHAK'S SULTAN UZUN...


WOULD YOU MIND...
...TAKING A QUICK TRIP TO THE BORDER WITH ME?
NO CHOICE BUT TO GO THROUGH 'EM ONE BY ONE...
BUT BEFORE THAT,
UPSY DAISY...
?

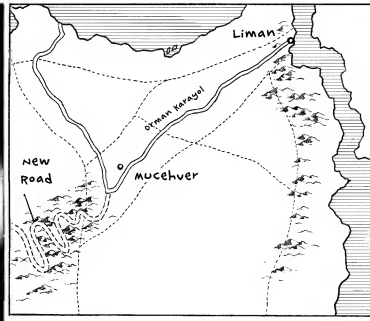
TO ZAGANOS PASHA, FROM KULAK NAZAR.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY DETECTED BEHIND IMPERIAL LINES IN THE MOUNTAINS NEAR BUCHAK'S WESTERN BORDER.
A LARGE-SCALE CONSTRUCTION OPERATION IS BEING CARRIED OUT IN SECRET.
SUSPECTED TO BE A ROAD LEADING TO THE BORDER...

THIS MAY SUGGEST A TRADE AGREEMENT IS BEING MADE BETWEEN THE DERT SULTANLUK AND THE EMPIRE ONCE THE ROADS CONNECT.

IN WHICH CASE, THE DERT SULTANLUK'S INTENTIONS OF SECEDING FROM BIRLIK TORQYE WILL BE UNDENIABLE. PLEASE STAY ON GUARD.

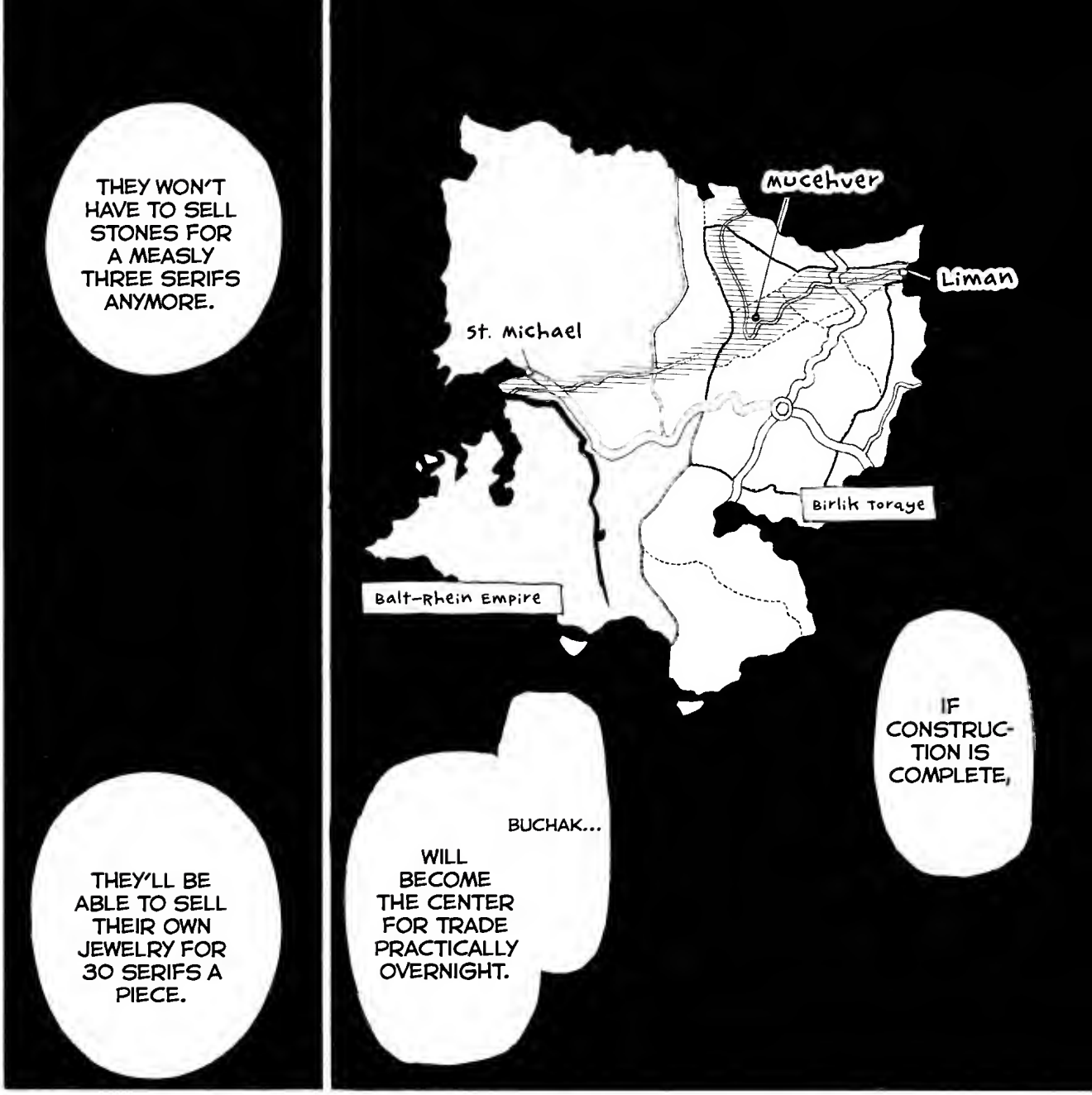
FURTHERMORE,



...THAT WILL MERGE NORTH WITH THE DERT SULTANLUK'S THOROUGHFARE, THE ORMAN KARAYOL,

CREATING A NEW LINE OF TRAFFIC FROM THE EMPIRE TO THE DERT SULTANLUK.

I SUSPECT IT WON'T TAKE LONG FOR CONSTRUCTION TO REACH BEYOND THE BORDER.

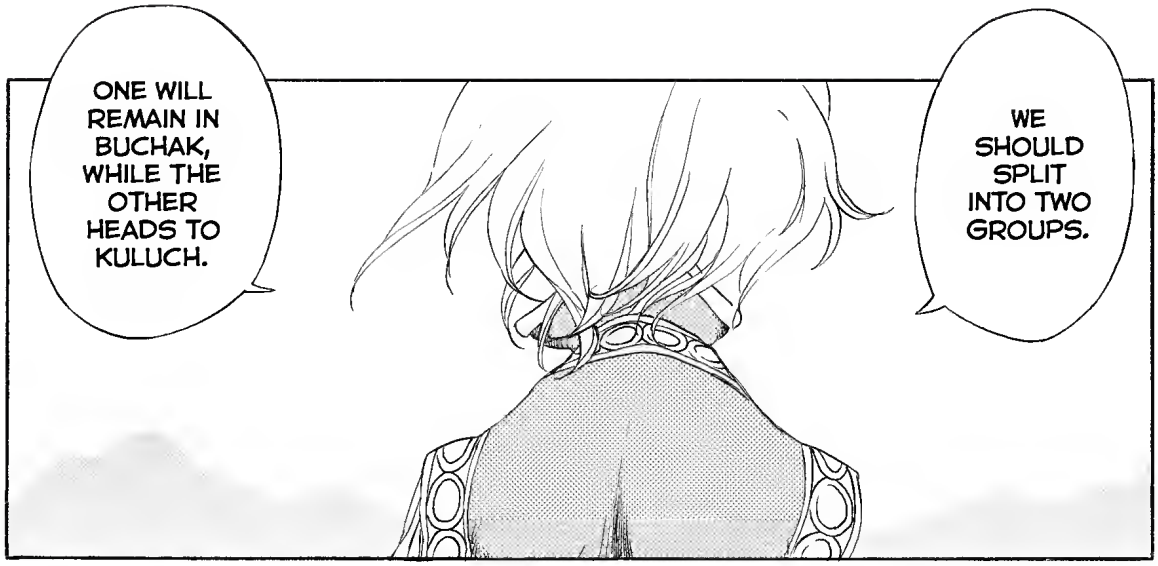

THEY WON'T HAVE TO SELL STONES FOR A MEASLY THREE SERIFS ANYMORE.
Mucehver
Liman
St. Michael
Birlik Torqye
Balt-Rhein Empire
IF CONSTRUC-TION IS COMPLETE,
BUCHAK... WILL BECOME THE CENTER FOR TRADE PRACTICALLY OVERNIGHT.
THEY'LL BE ABLE TO SELL THEIR OWN JEWELRY FOR 30 SERIFS A PIECE.

IF IT MEANS MULTIPLYING PROFITS TEN-FOLD,
THEN WORKING WITH THE EMPIRE...
...WILL BE A LOT MORE APPEALING THAN STAYING UNDER BIRLIK TORQYE.

THEY BOUGHT MUZRAK WITH PRESTIGE,
AND BUCHAK WITH WEALTH.
TO THINK WE NEVER HEARD ABOUT THE ROAD UNTIL IT WAS NEARLY COMPLETE...
THEY MUST HAVE WIPED OUT ALL OUR EYES AND EARS IN THE EMPIRE...
...JUST TO KEEP THIS HIDDEN.
IF THIS ROAD CONNECTS,
IT WON'T JUST BE GEMS THAT COME AND GO.

IF WE DON'T OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT
BEFORE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS ROAD IS COMPLETE,
THEN IT'LL MEAN THE END FOR THE TORQYE PASHALU.

THEY'RE PROVING MORE TROUBLESOME THAN I EXPECTED.
WE *WILL* MAKE IT IN TIME!


WE SHOULD SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS.
ONE WILL REMAIN IN BUCHAK, WHILE THE OTHER HEADS TO KULUCH.

KULUCH...
...IS HOME TO THE PRINCE WHO IS TO BE MY HUSBAND.

IN THAT CASE, ALLOW ME TO JOIN THE KULUCH GROUP.
HUH...?

...VERY WELL.

?!
Wha...
Ooh...

BEYOLU BEYAZIT AND SULEYMAN BEY,
PLEASE CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR PRO-TORQYE ROYALTY IN BUCHAK.

WE WILL MAKE FOR KULUCH.

...OH!
MY APOLO-GIES...
...FOR MAKING YOU PREPARE THE KIOSK FOR ME.

Fasul 26 The Sultanlu of Swords

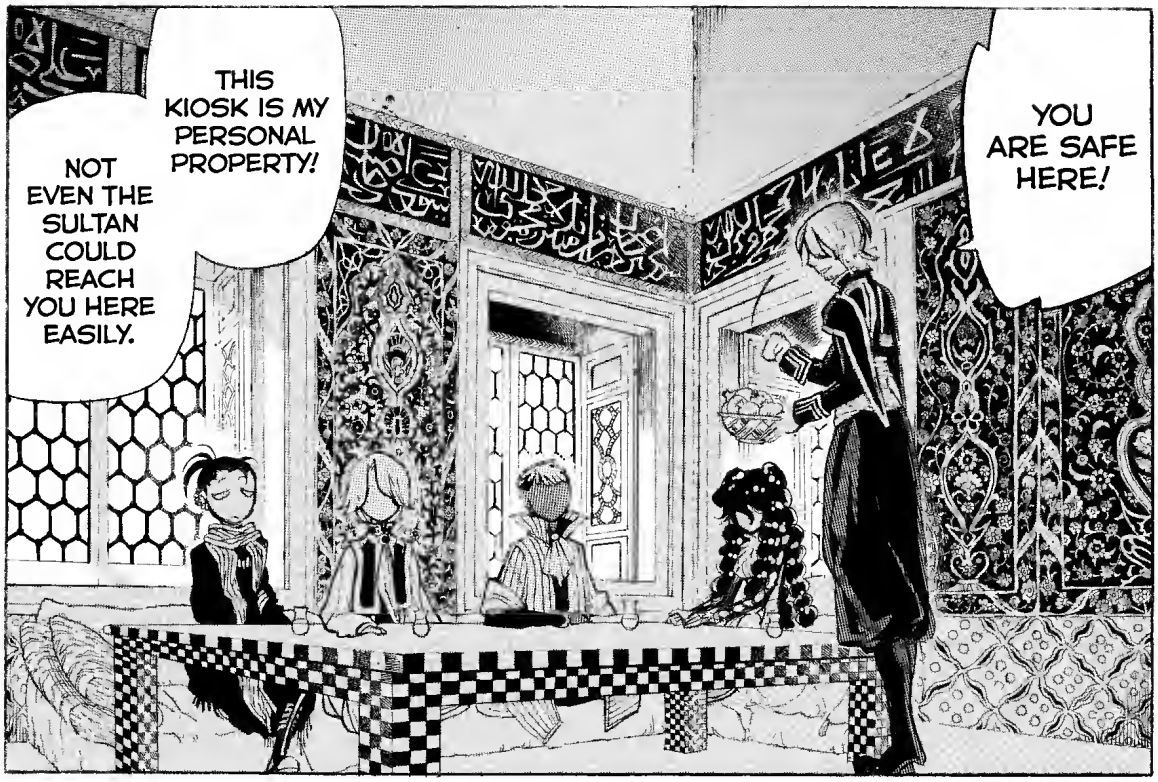
BUT OF COURSE,
PRENSES AISHE!
TUGHRIL ESKI-PASHA, THIS IS MY *NISHANLU**.
BAP!
I'VE PREPARED ONLY THE BEST PERFUMES, DRESSES, AND SILK BEDDING—
JUST FOR YOU,
*NISHANLU: FIANCÉ.
PRENS ORHAN.
THE FIRST PRINCE OF THE KULUCH SULTANLU,
*PRENS: PRINCE.

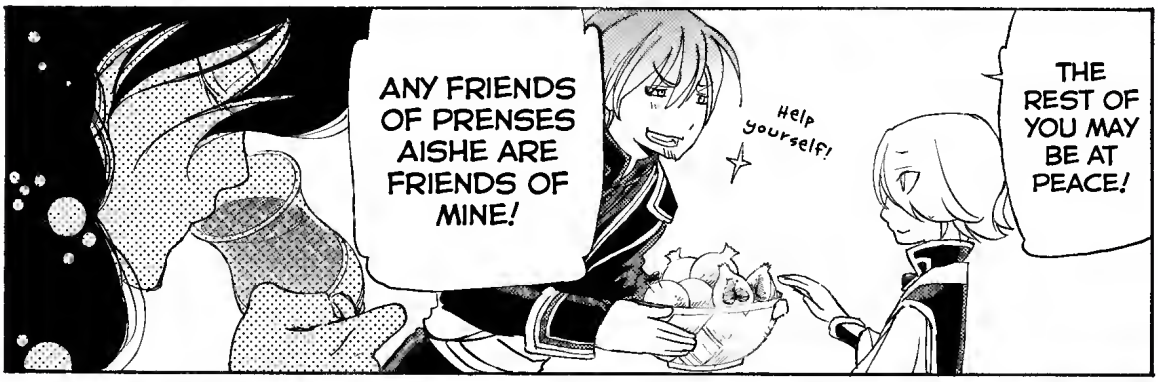
KULUCH SULTANLU
OUTSKIRTS OF THE CAPITAL CITY, ACAYUP
ORHAN'S KIOSK

I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW GLAD I AM!
I'VE BEEN WORRIED SICK...
...EVER SINCE I HEARD THE PRENSES HAD BEEN LABELED A TRAITOR.

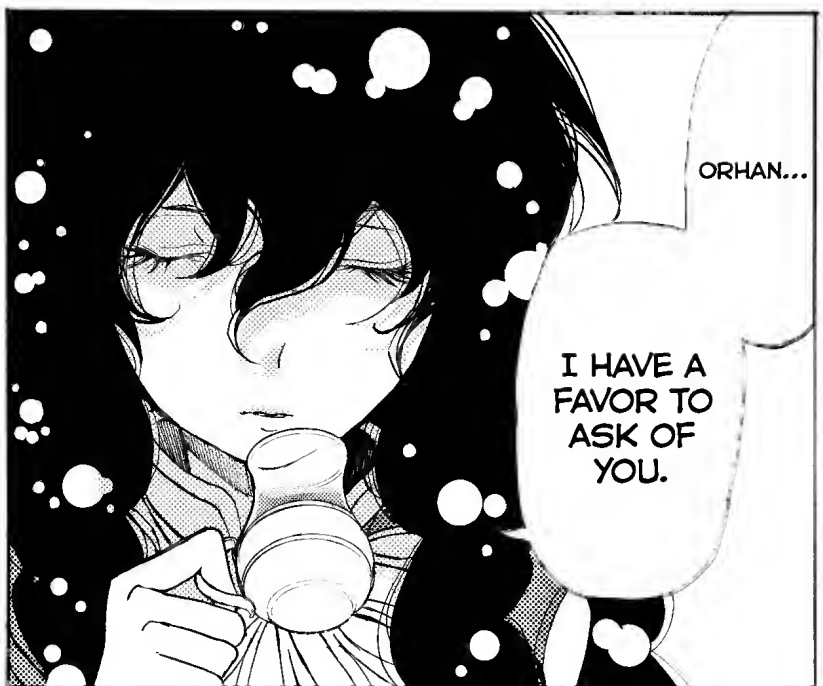
BY NOW, SEARCH PARTIES HAVE BEEN SENT...
...TO THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE DERT SULTANLUK.
RUB
RUB
RUB
RUB

...
THOSE?!
IT SEEMS MUZRAK'S SULTAN BALA-BAN...
...HAD YOUR PICTURES POSTED IN EVEN THE SMALLEST VILLAGES.
WHEN I FOUND YOUR LETTER ON MY BALCONY,
I TURNED TO THE HEAVENS AND THANKED THE SPIRITS!
ぎゃあ GYAH
ギジャあ GIJAH
YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE...
...SEEKING REFUGE WITH ME!

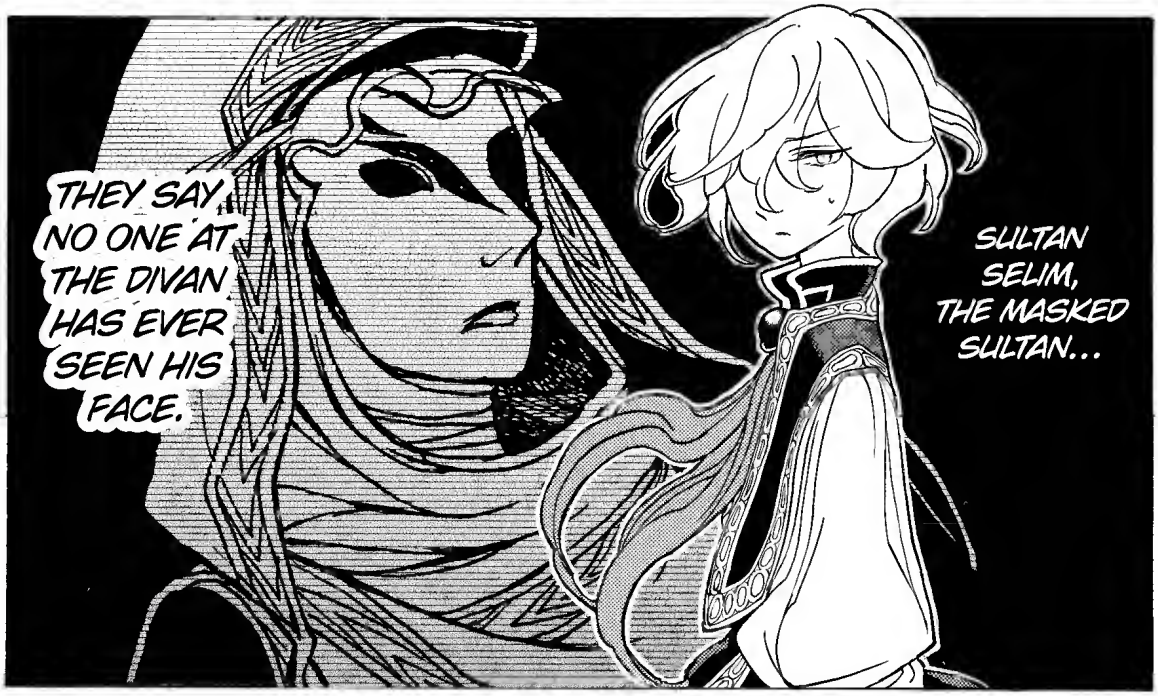

THIS KIOSK IS MY PERSONAL PROPERTY!
NOT EVEN THE SULTAN COULD REACH YOU HERE EASILY.
YOU ARE SAFE HERE!

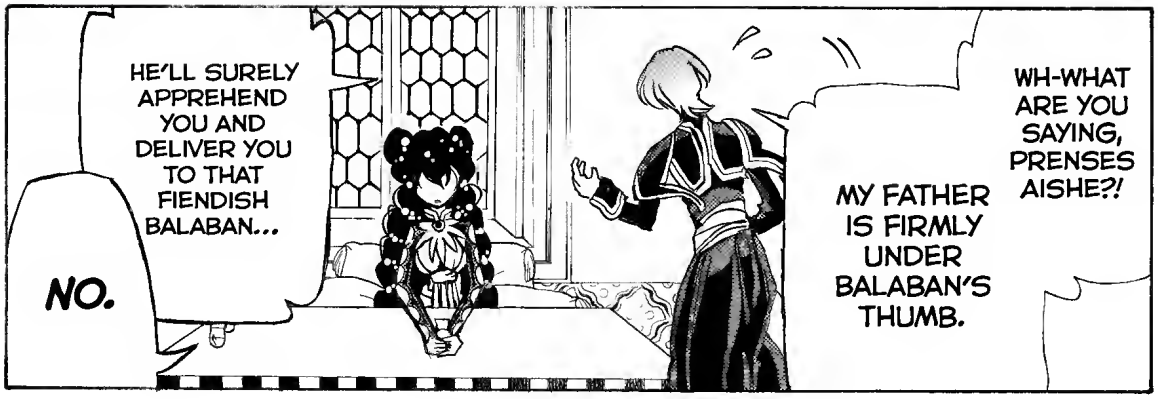

ANY FRIENDS OF PRENSES AISHE ARE FRIENDS OF MINE!
Help yourself!
THE REST OF YOU MAY BE AT PEACE!

YES!
WITH PLEA-SURE!
ANYTHING FOR YOU, PREN—


ORHAN...
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU.

WOULD YOU ALLOW ME TO SPEAK WITH...
YOUR FATHER, SULTAN SELIM?

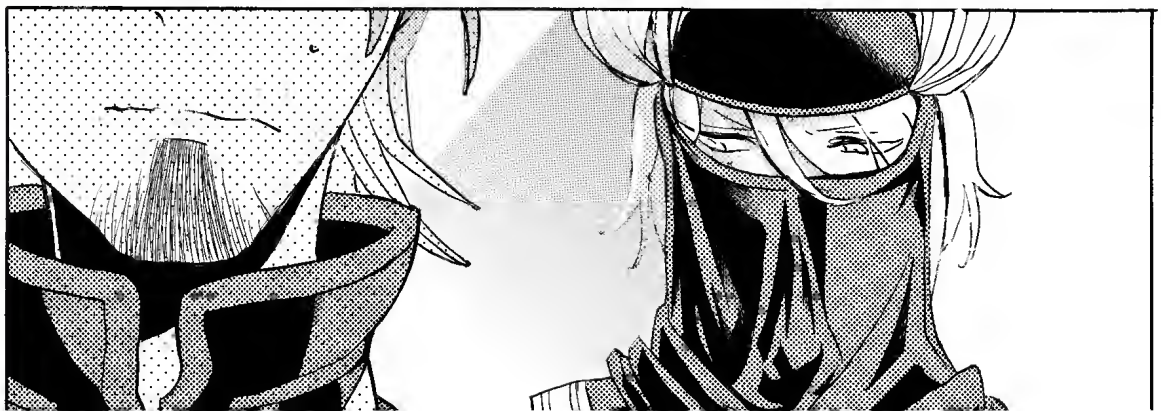

THEY SAY NO ONE AT THE DIVAN HAS EVER SEEN HIS FACE.
SULTAN SELIM, THE MASKED SULTAN...

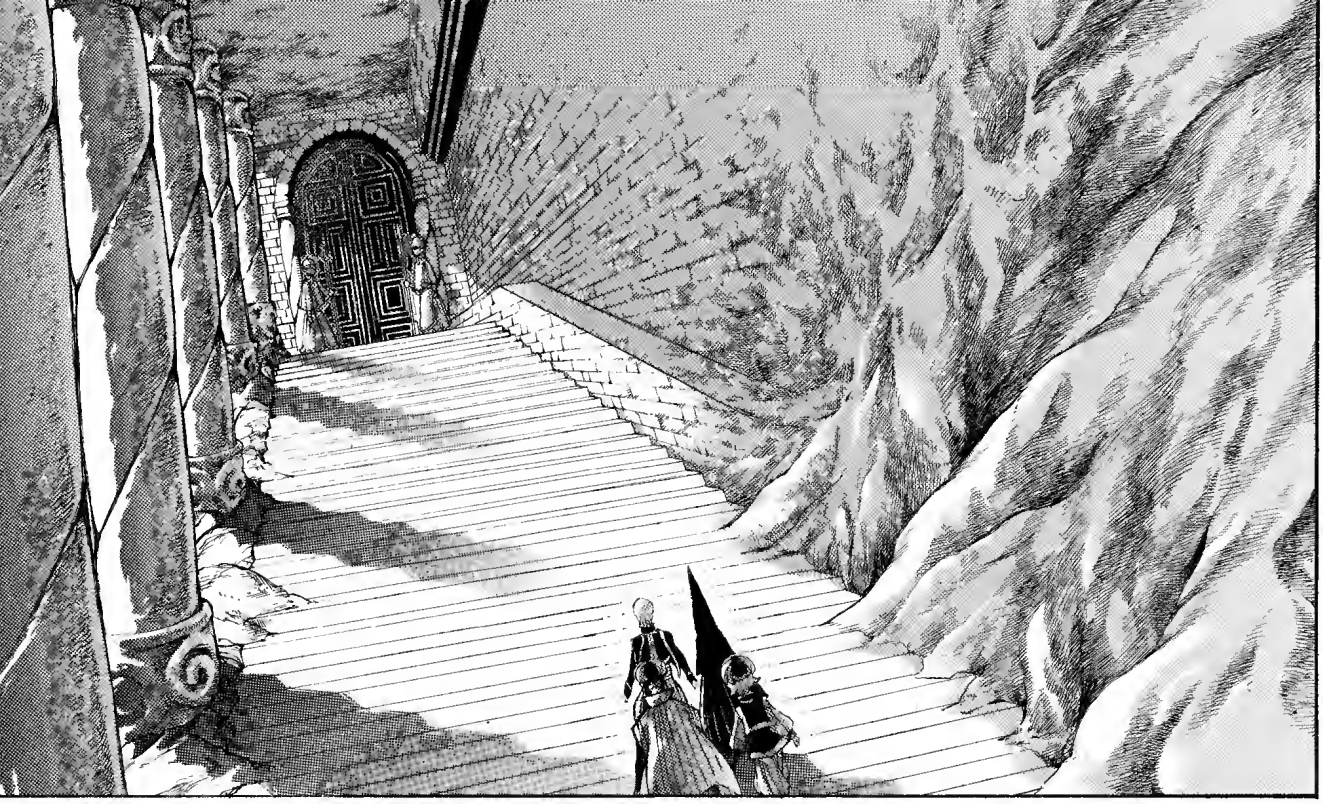

HE'LL SURELY APPREHEND YOU AND DELIVER YOU TO THAT FIENDISH BALABAN...
NO.
MY FATHER IS FIRMLY UNDER BALABAN'S THUMB.
WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, PRENSES AISHE?!

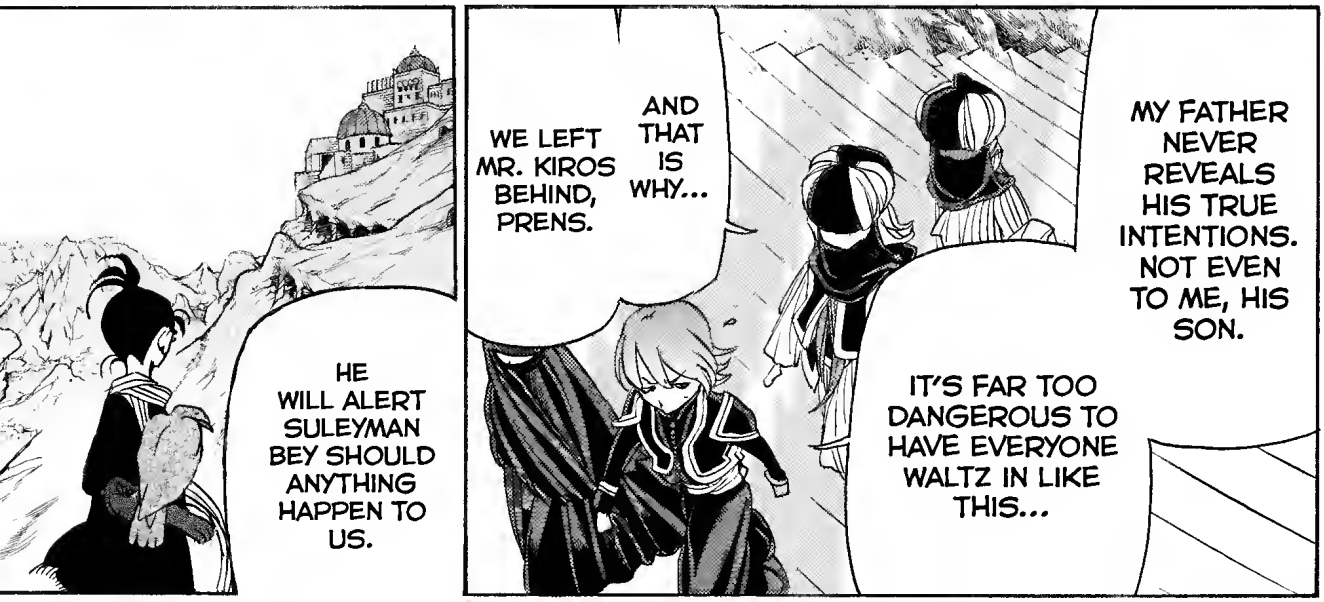
SULTAN SELIM...
...WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING SO FOOLISH.

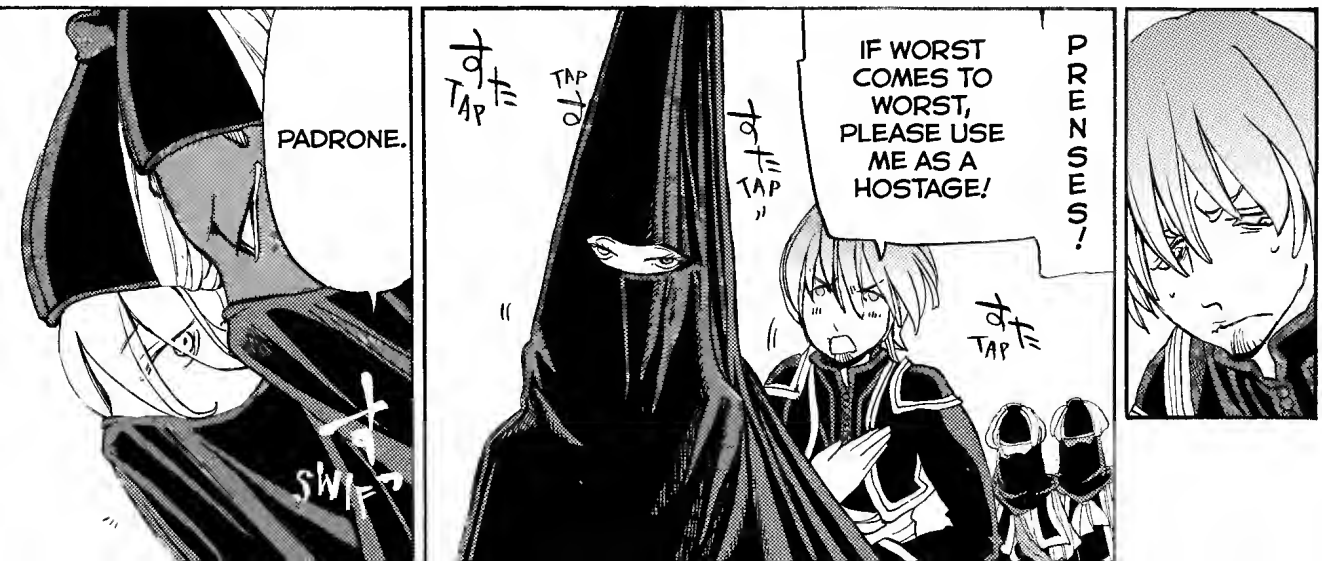
KULUCH SULTANLU CHIVIT-SARAY*
*CHIVIT-SARAY: INDIGO PALACE

I AM HERE TO HAVE *KAHVALTU* WITH MY FATHER!
*KAHVALTU: BREAKFAST.

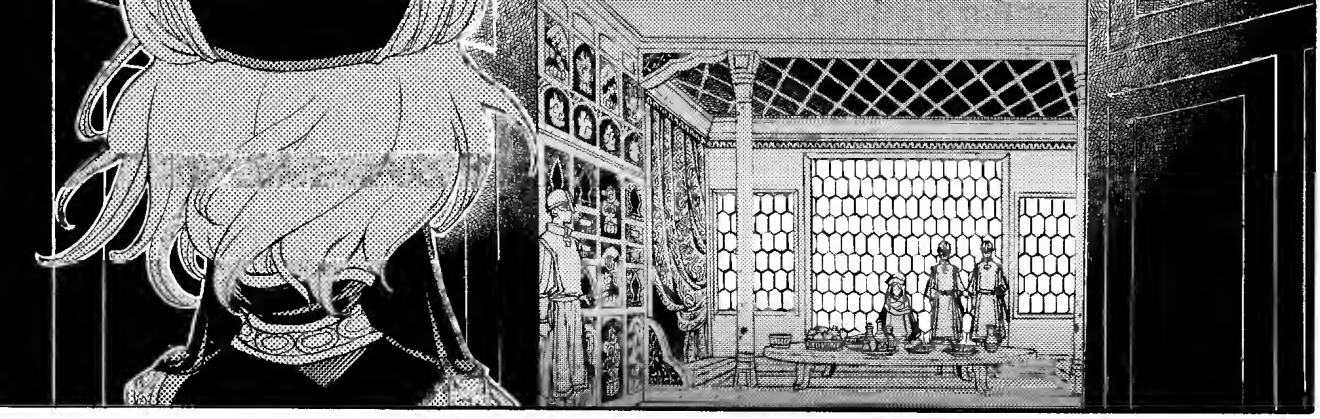


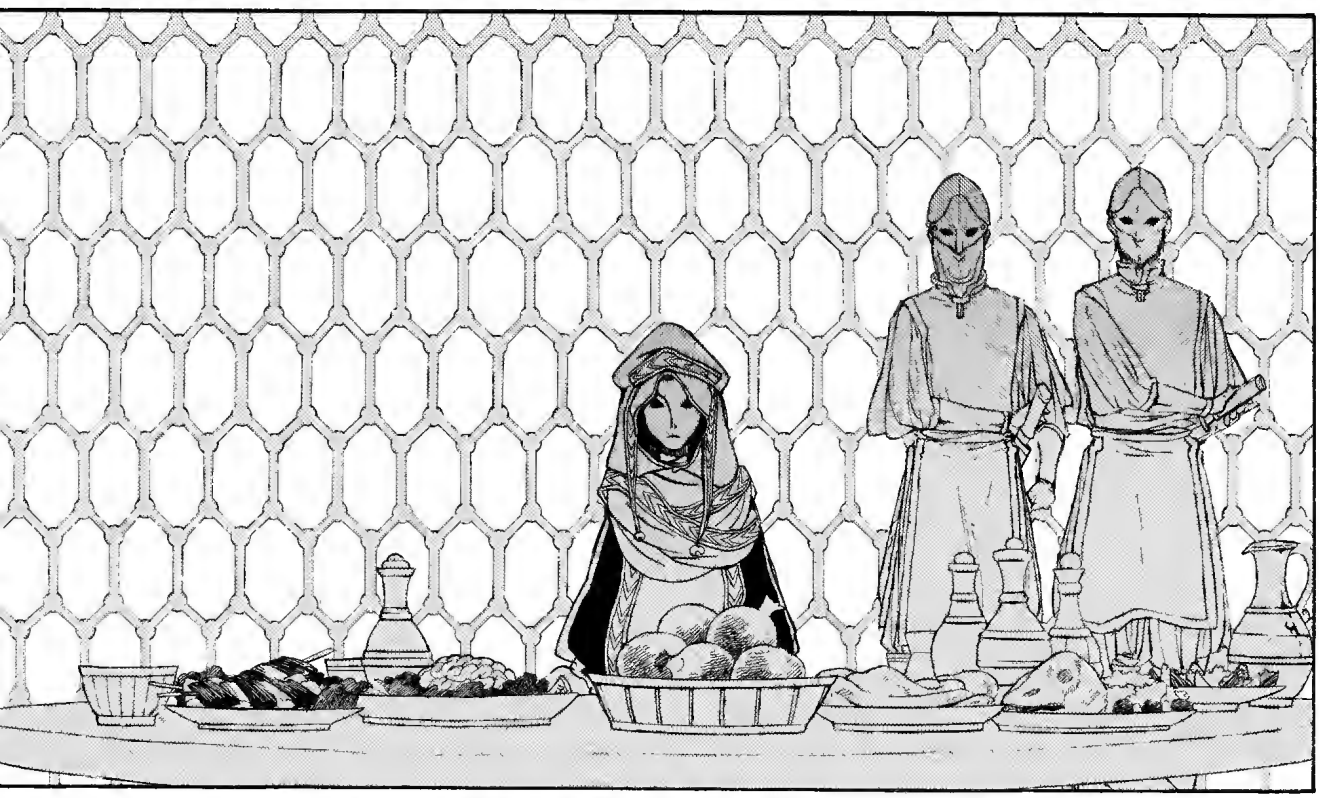



MY FATHER NEVER REVEALS HIS TRUE INTENTIONS. NOT EVEN TO ME, HIS SON.
IT'S FAR TOO DANGEROUS TO HAVE EVERYONE WALTZ IN LIKE THIS...
AND THAT IS WHY...
WE LEFT MR. KIROS BEHIND, PRENS.
HE WILL ALERT SULEYMAN BEY SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN TO US.


PRENSES!
IF WORST COMES TO WORST, PLEASE USE ME AS A HOSTAGE!
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
PADRONE.
SWIP

IF AN OPPOR-TUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF,
SHALL WE KILL SULTAN SELIM?
...
THAT MAY NOT BE A BAD IDEA.





Kuluch Sultanlu
2nd Sultan
YUZ-MASKE* SELIM
*YUZ-MASKE: 100 MASKS

SHIVER

I WAS CURIOUS WHAT COULD HAVE BROUGHT THIS ON.
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY...
THAT YOU ASK TO JOIN ME FOR BREAK-FAST.

I...
I THANK YOU...
...FOR GRANTING ME THIS VISIT, FATHER.

I TAKE IT...
THEY ARE YOUR GUESTS?

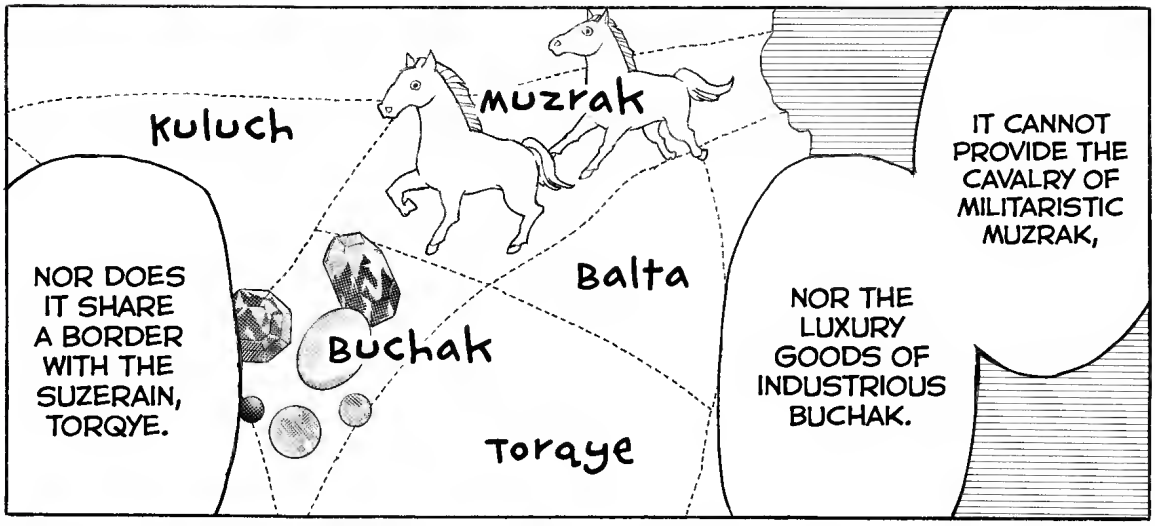
...!
TUGHRIL MAHMUT...
OF TORQYE.
AND OVER HERE...
WOULD BE PRENSES AISHE, I PRESUME?
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, SULTAN.

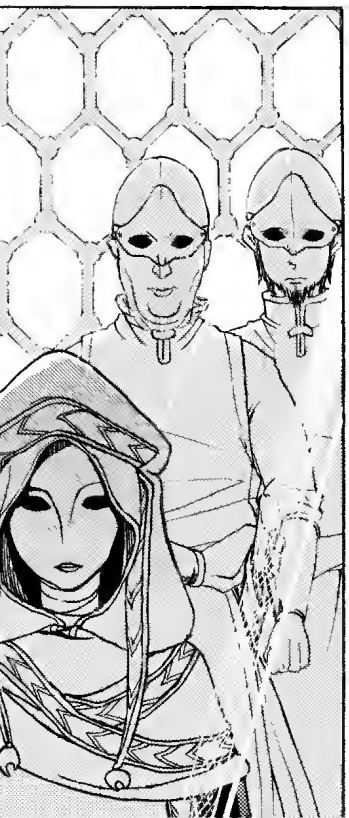
DARING AS EVER, I SEE.
YOU'RE QUITE BOLD TO STAND BEFORE ME IN YOUR POSITION.

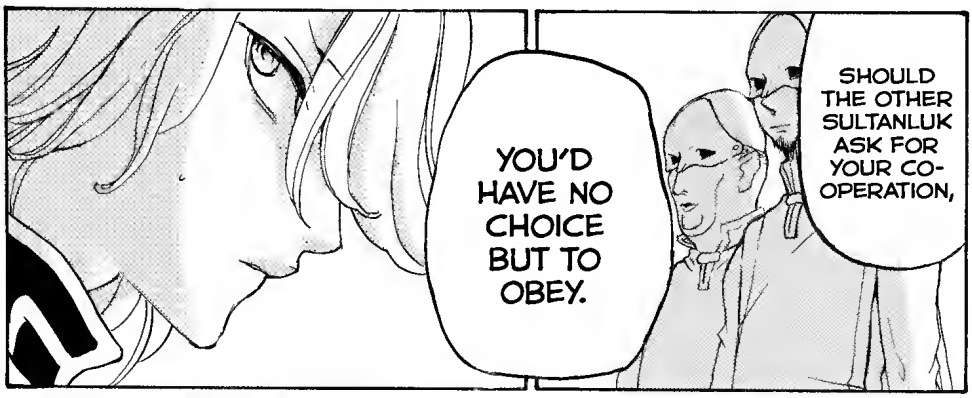
HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN, SULTAN SELIM.
TO THINK YOU WOULD HEED TO MY UNCLE BALABAN'S EVERY WHIM.

WELL,
YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHY.
SWIPE
YOU DON'T EVEN COMPARE TO TUGHRIL MAHMUT ESKI-PASHA,
WHO STANDS STRONG...
...AGAINST THE THREAT OF BALABAN
AND HIS FORCES.

THE KULUCH SULTANLU IS A SMALL AND WEAK NATION.


Kuluch
Muzrak
Balta
Buchak
Toraye
NOR DOES IT SHARE A BORDER WITH THE SUZERAIN, TORQYE.
IT CANNOT PROVIDE THE CAVALRY OF MILITARISTIC MUZRAK,
NOR THE LUXURY GOODS OF INDUSTRIOUS BUCHAK.

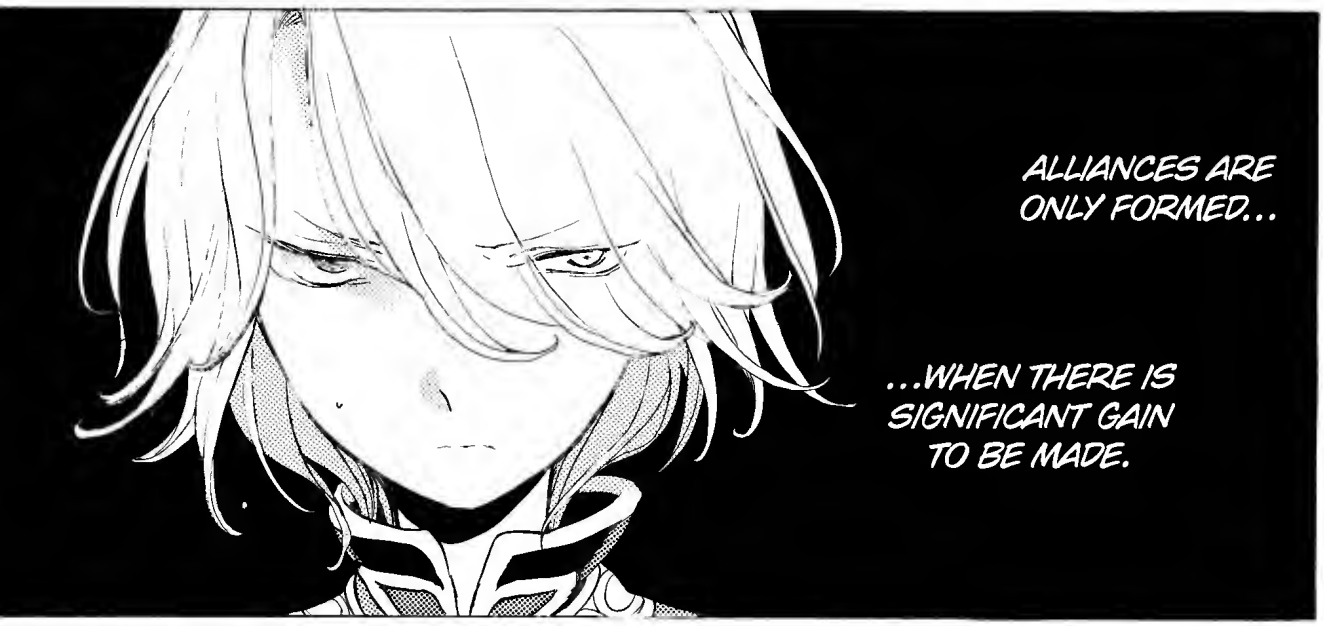


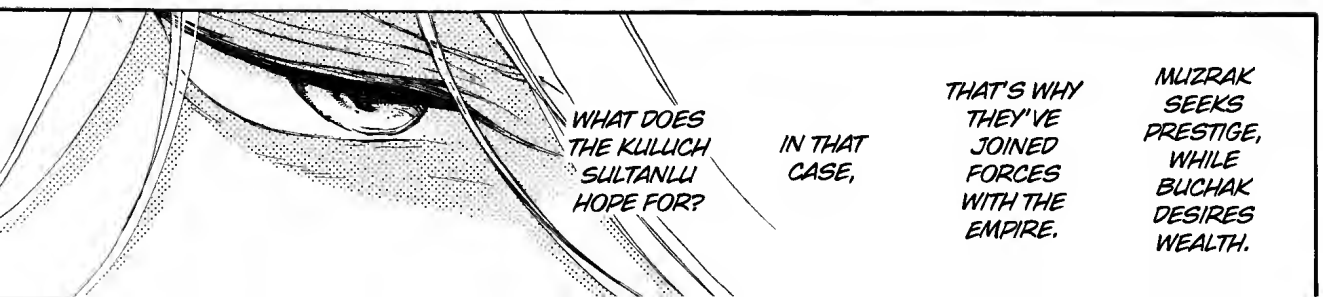

YOU'D HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO OBEY.
SHOULD THE OTHER SULTANLUK ASK FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION,

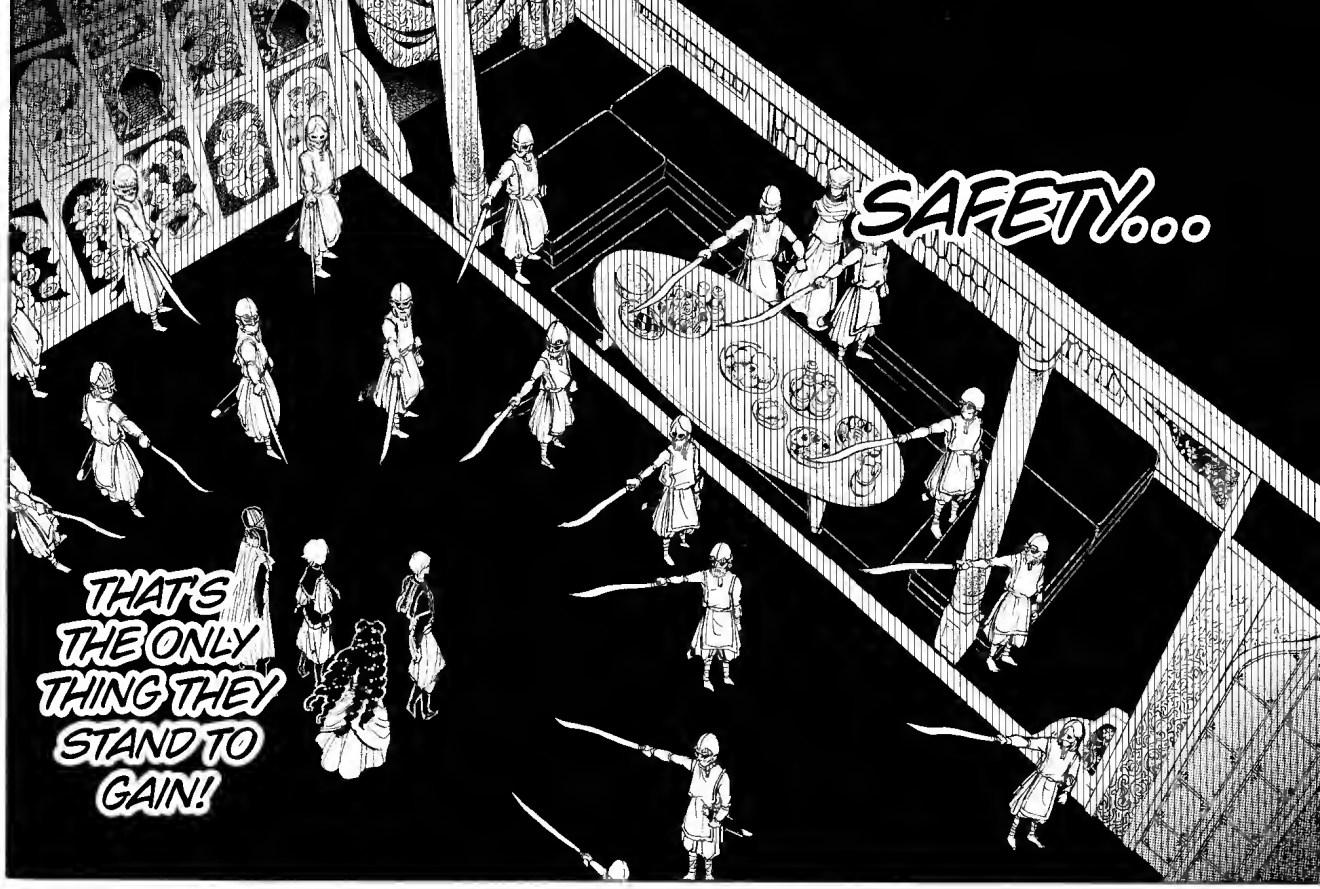
...THAT THEIR DESIRES WILL DESTROY US ALL.
EVEN WHEN YOU CAN CLEARLY SEE...

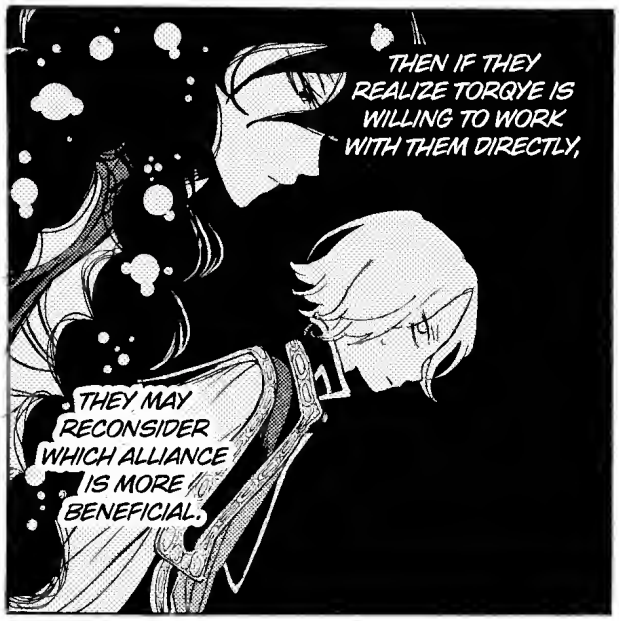
I AM NOT SURE HOW YOU CAME TO SUCH A MISUNDER-STANDING, PRENSES AISHE,
BUT FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART,
I THINK OF BALABAN AS A SWORN FRIEND.
SWIF
BAM
GRAB
WHIF
STAND DOWN.
IT'S ALL RIGHT ...

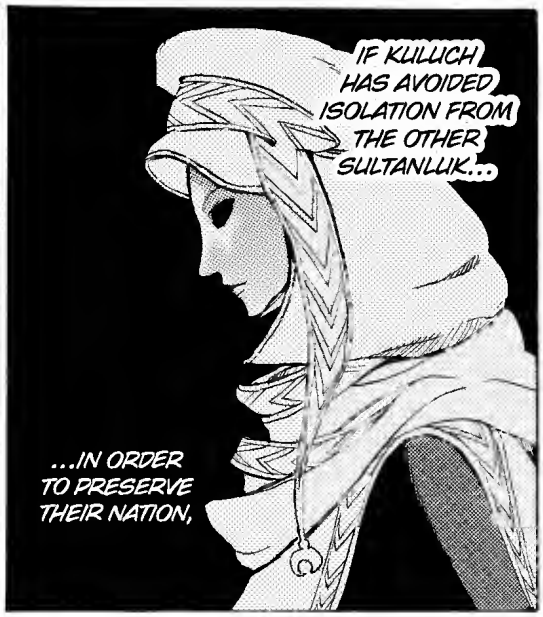
THAT'S RIGHT...
...THAT WE ALLIED OURSELVES WITH PHOINIKE.
IT WAS NEVER OUT OF TRUST...

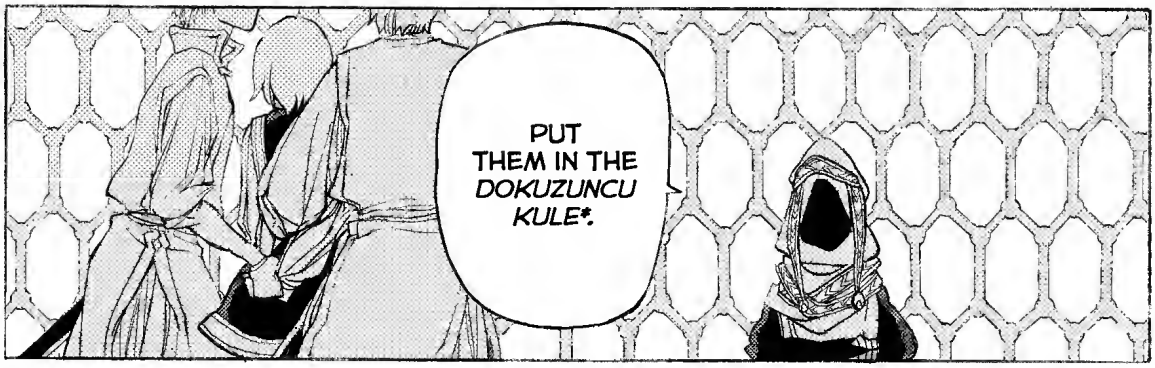

ALLIANCES ARE ONLY FORMED...
...WHEN THERE IS SIGNIFICANT GAIN TO BE MADE.


WHAT DOES THE KULUCH SULTANLU HOPE FOR?
IN THAT CASE,
THAT'S WHY THEY'VE JOINED FORCES WITH THE EMPIRE.
MUZRAK SEEKS PRESTIGE, WHILE BUCHAK DESIRES WEALTH.

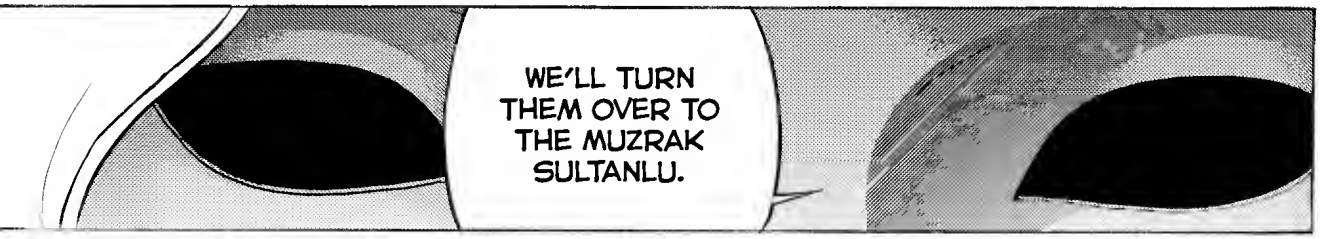

SAFETY...
THAT'S THE ONLY THING THEY STAND TO GAIN!

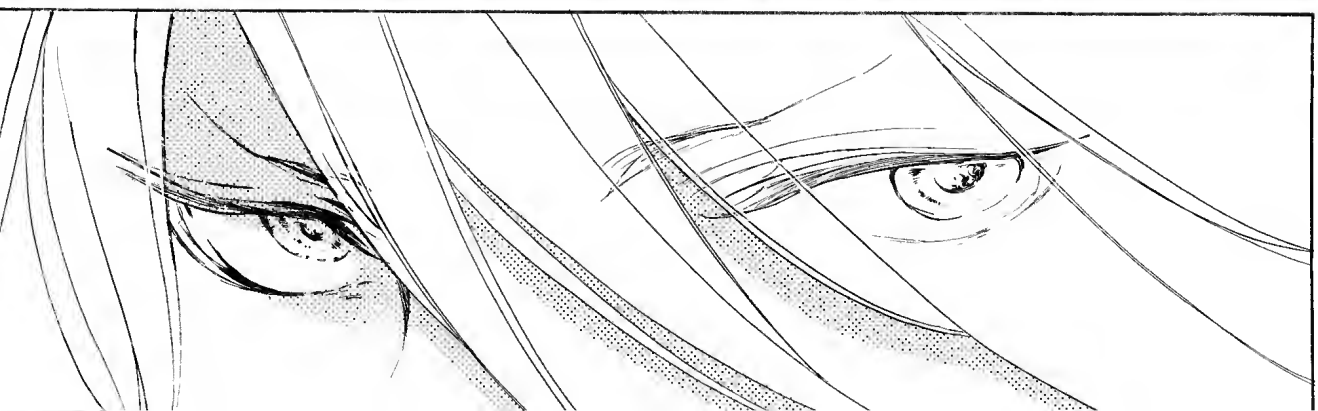

THEN IF THEY REALIZE TORQYE IS WILLING TO WORK WITH THEM DIRECTLY,
THEY MAY RECONSIDER WHICH ALLIANCE IS MORE BENEFICIAL.


IF KULUCH HAS AVOIDED ISOLATION FROM THE OTHER SULTANLUK...
...IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THEIR NATION,

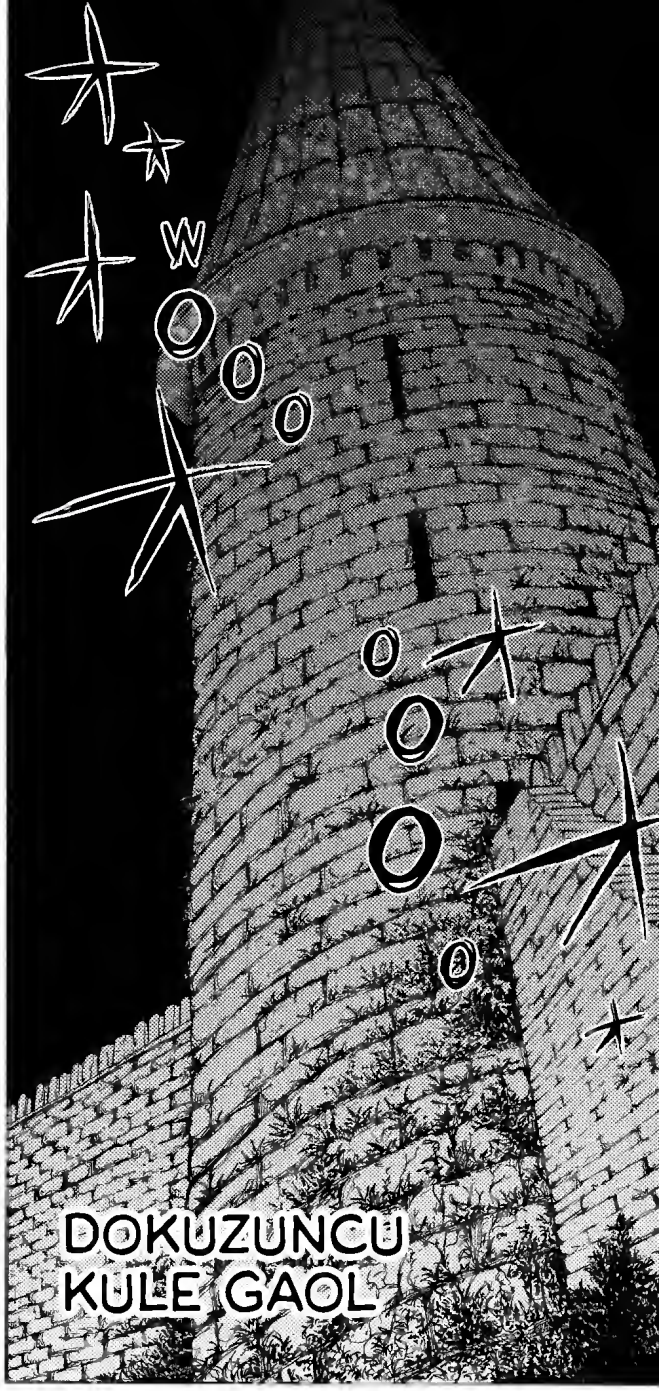


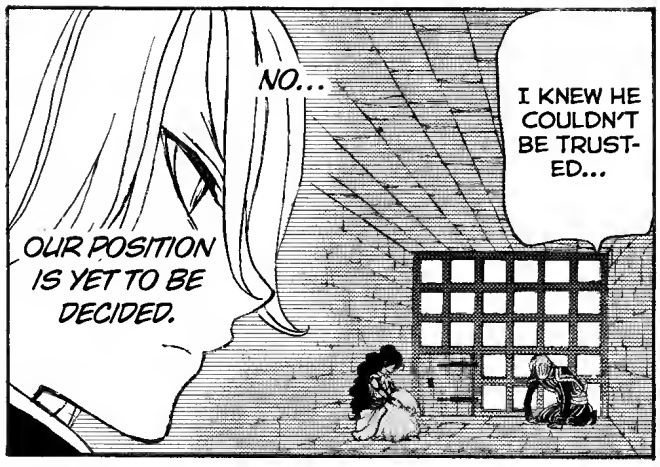
*DOKUZUNCU KULE: NINTH TOWER.





I...
I'M SO SORRY, PRENSES AISHE...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU ASKED,
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN YOU TO SEE MY FATHER!
ぽ
Plop
ぽ
Plop
Plop
ぽ
ぽ
Plop

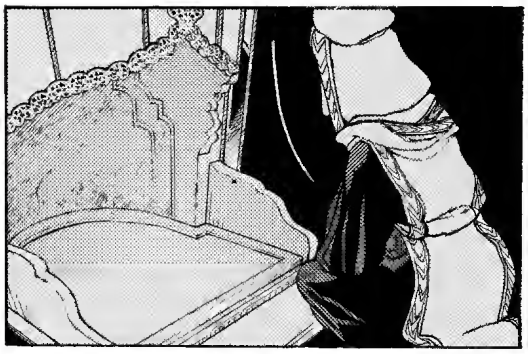

WOOO
DOKUZUNCU KULE GAOL

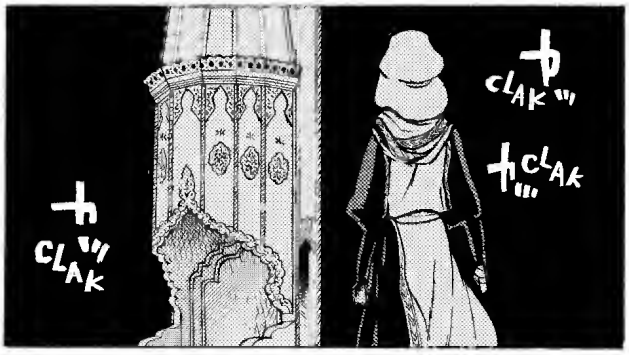

I KNEW HE COULDN'T BE TRUST-ED...
NO...
OUR POSITION IS YET TO BE DECIDED.

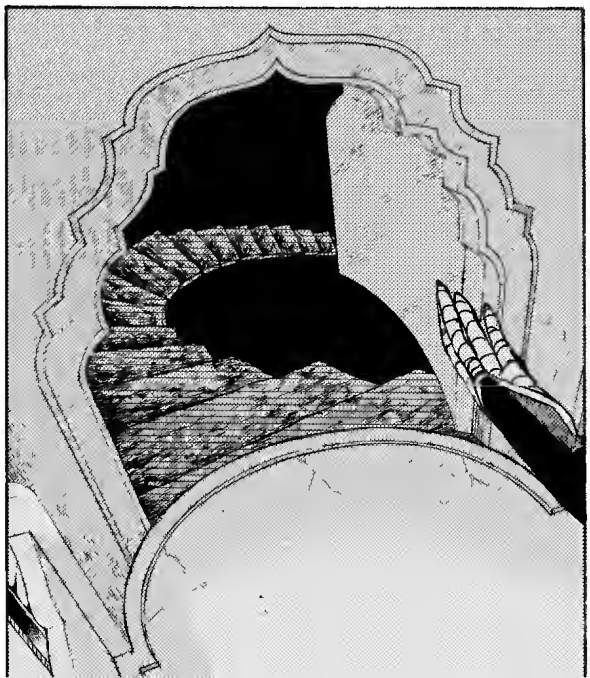
HOWEVER,
MR. ABIRI-GA.
WE SHOULD SECURE AN ESCAPE ROUTE IN THE EVENT THINGS TAKE A TURN FOR THE WORSE.

YOUR CONCERN IS UNNECESSARY,
MR. IMPERIAL AMBASSADOR.
FOR A MOMENT,
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY SIDE WITH TORQYE...
YOU GAVE ME A SCARE THERE, SULTAN SELIM.
PLUCK
WELL, THEN. I BID YOU GOOD NIGHT, SULTAN.
...IS CRUCIAL FOR OUR NATION TO SURVIVE.
I KNOW VERY WELL THAT AN ALLIANCE WITH THE EMPIRE...
THE ERA OF TORQYE IS OVER.

THUD
パン




CLAK
CLAK
CLAK



キィ
CREAK
。。。

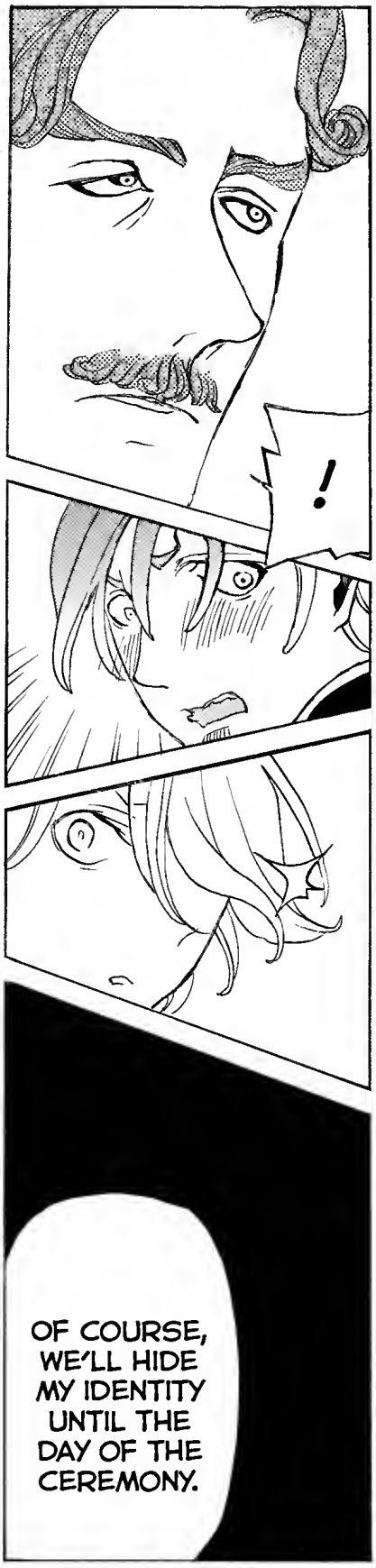
PADRONE.
THE WALLS OF THIS PRIS-ON...
...ARE HOLLOW IN PLACES.
THERE COULD BE A SECRET PASSAGE SOME-WHERE.
YOU MIGHT BE COR-RECT...
...ABOUT SELIM BEING AN UNEXPECTED ALLY.
AH!
カリ
CLUNK
PAT ペた
ペた PAT
!
GRRR

AT LAST,
WE CAN SPEEK FREELY.
...!
SULTAN SELIM!
GREET-INGS.
MY APOLO-GIES FOR BEFORE.
THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE ROD ORM MEMBERS OR BALABAN'S SPIES...
...MIGHT BE HIDING IN THE PALACE.

WEARING THIS ALLOWS ME TO CONVERSE WITH IMPERIALS AND MUZRAKIANS...
...WITHOUT FEAR OF MY FACE GIVING ANYTHING AWAY.
CLACK
I'D SAY I DON'T NEED TO WEAR A MASK HERE.
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID, PRENSES AISHE.
IN ORDER TO SURVIVE AS A SMALL AND WEAK NATION,
KULUCH BITTERLY DECIDED TO OPPOSE TORQYE IN THE VOTE.
I HAVE PONDERED THE MOTIVES OF OUR STRONGER NEIGHBORS,
AND IT IS BECAUSE OUR NATION IS WEAK THAT I KNOW ALL TOO WELL...
...THAT THERE IS NO FUTURE FOR US UNDER THE EMPIRE.
THAT IS HOW I TRULY FEEL.

WHA—
I HONESTLY THOUGHT BALABAN HAD YOU UNDER HIS THUMB...
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN WHY, FATHER?!
SIGH
AND THAT'S PRECISELY WHY I DIDN'T TELL YOU.
TO THINK THAT THE FUTURE HEIR OF KULUCH...
...COULDN'T DECIPHER SOMETHING SO OBVIOUS.
WE MAY HAVE TO CANCEL THE ENGAGE-MENT...
...IF YOU CONTINUE TO BE SO WEAK-MINDED, PRENS.
AH...
ERR...
WHILE YOUR NISHANLU...
HAD IT ALL FIGURED OUT.

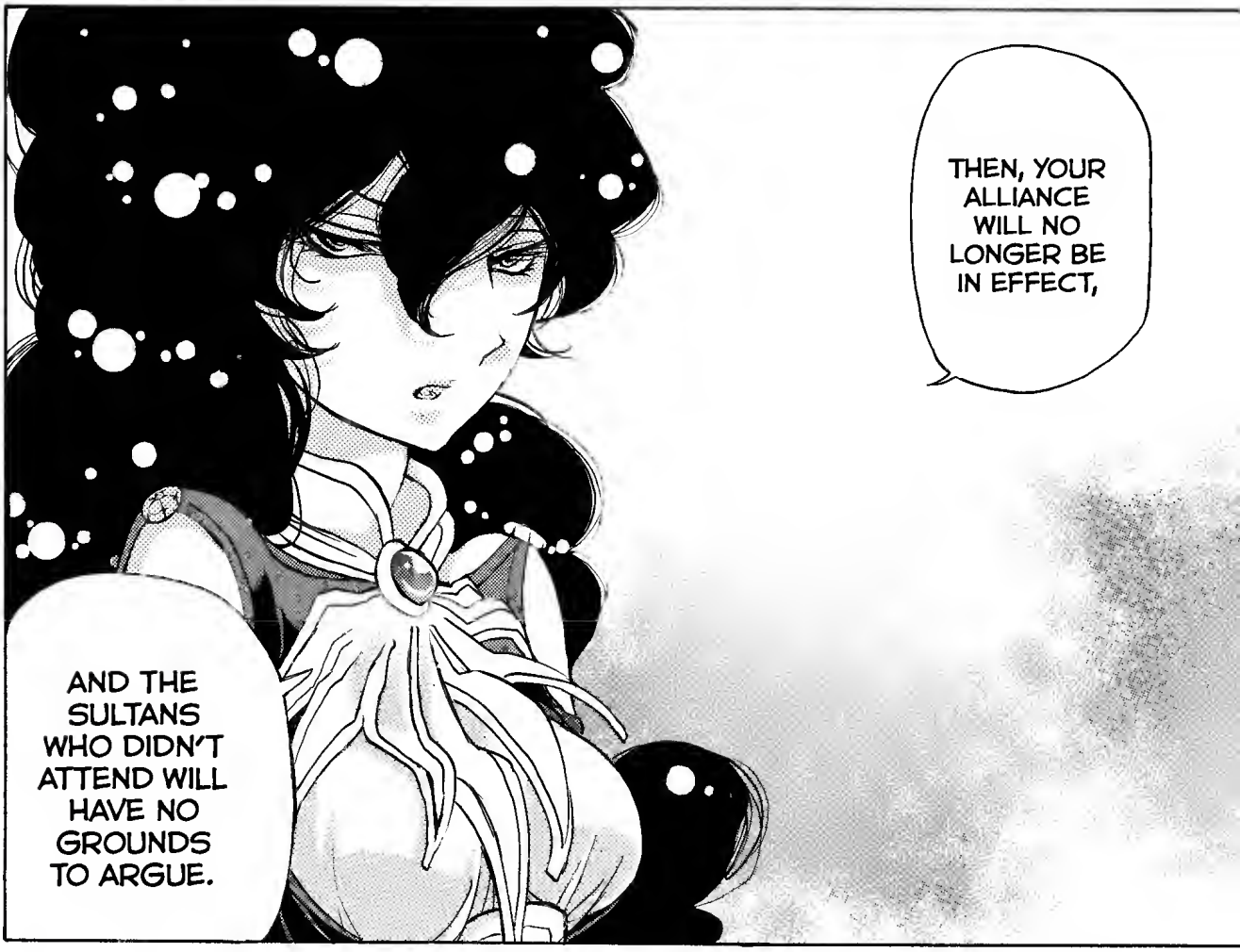
TUGHRIL MAHMUT BINBASH.
...
YUZ-MASKE SELIM...
IS THIS REALLY HIS TRUE FACE?
WHILE I WOULD LIKE TO ASSIST YOU,
ON THE SURFACE, I AM ALLIED WITH BALABAN.
WHAT IF...
...THIS IS JUST ANOTHER ONE OF HIS MASKS?
IF I SHOW ANY SIGNS OF BREAKING THAT ALLIANCE,
BALABAN WILL TAKE THAT OPPOR-TUNITY...
...TO THOROUGHLY CRUSH KULUCH.
...
I'M SORRY, BUT I CANNOT COOPERATE WITH YOU OPENLY.
I HAVE AN IDEA,
SULTAN SELIM.

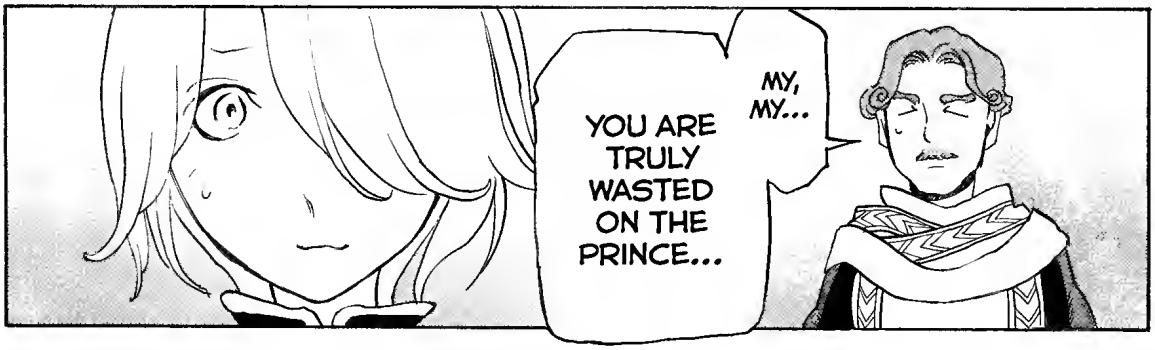

!
OF COURSE, WE'LL HIDE MY IDENTITY UNTIL THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY.

WE SHOULD GO AHEAD
AND HOLD THE *NIKAH** BETWEEN PRENS ORHAN AND ME.
*NIKAH: WEDDING.

IF THE KULUCH SULTANLU ANNOUNC-ES
THAT THE PRINCE IS GETTING MARRIED,
THEN WE CAN INVITE THE SULTANS OF EACH NATION TO KULUCH.
IF WE CAPTURE THEM ALL ONCE THEY'VE GATHERED,
THEN OUR POLITICAL OVERTHROW WILL BE COMPLETE.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ESKI-PASHA?
WHAT IF THE SULTANS DON'T SHOW?

IN THAT CASE, WE'LL MERELY MOVE THINGS FORWARD.
WE'LL USE THE MARRIAGE AS AN OPPOR-TUNITY
FOR THE SULTAN TO ANNOUNCE HIS ABDICA-TION IN FAVOR OF HIS SON AND GET ON WITH THE CEREMONY.


THEN, YOUR ALLIANCE WILL NO LONGER BE IN EFFECT,
AND THE SULTANS WHO DIDN'T ATTEND WILL HAVE NO GROUNDS TO ARGUE.


MY, MY...
YOU ARE TRULY WASTED ON THE PRINCE...

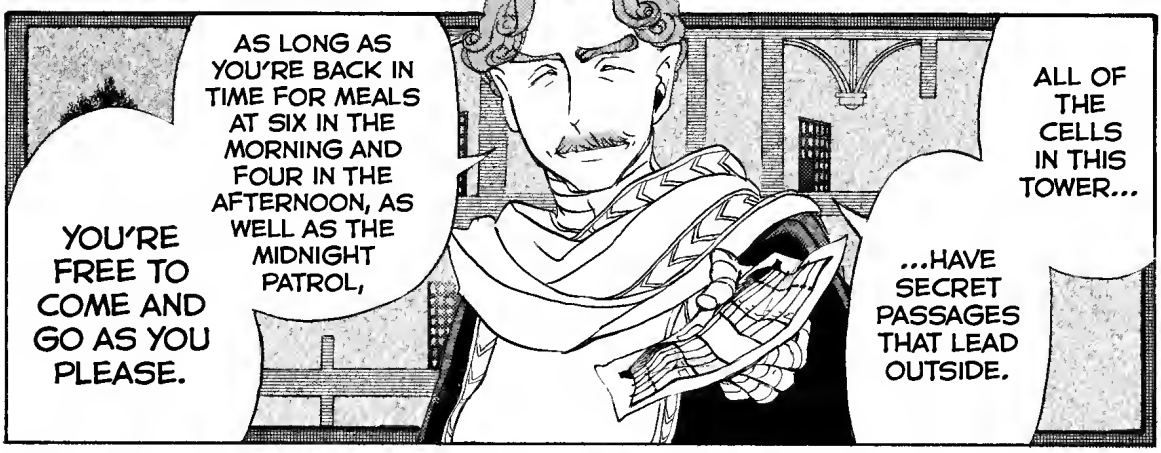
WE'LL USE PRENSES AISHE AND PRENS ORHAN'S NIKAH AS BAIT...
...
...
...TO CAPTURE ALL THE ANTI-TORQYE SULTANS AT ONCE!

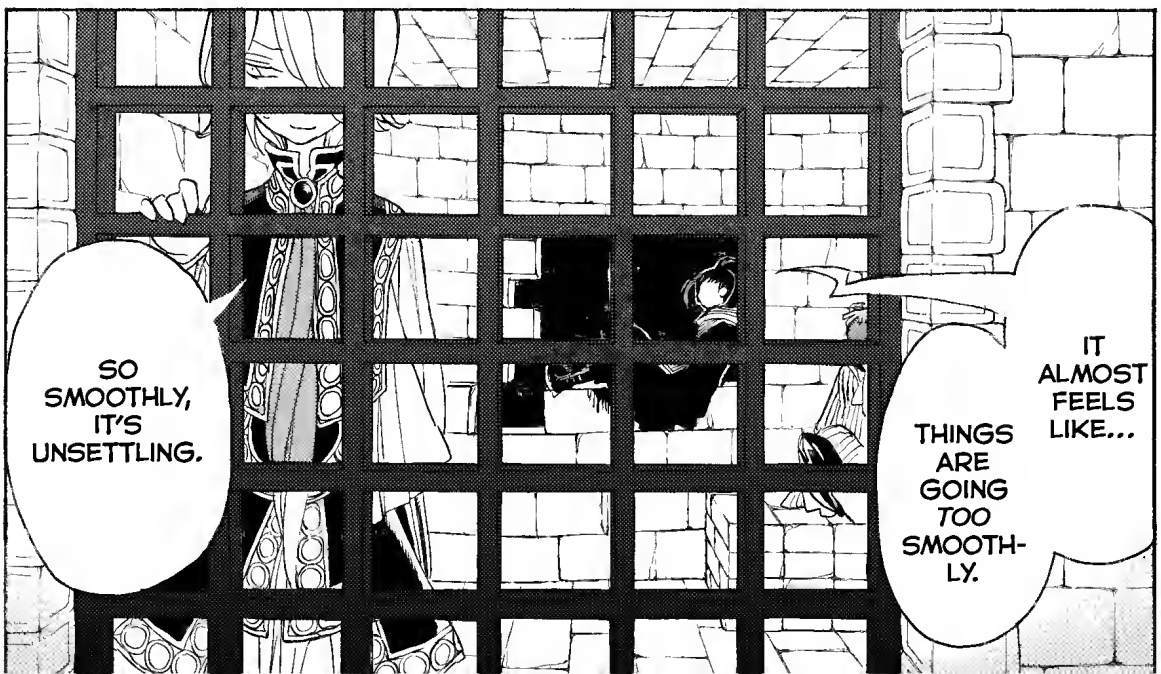
FATHER!
I THINK IT'S A WONDER-FUL IDEA!
WE SHOULD HURRY AND HOLD THE CEREMONY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
A FINE IDEA IT IS, INDEED.
I'LL BEGIN THE PREPARATIONS RIGHT AWAY.

Fasul 27 The 45th Heir

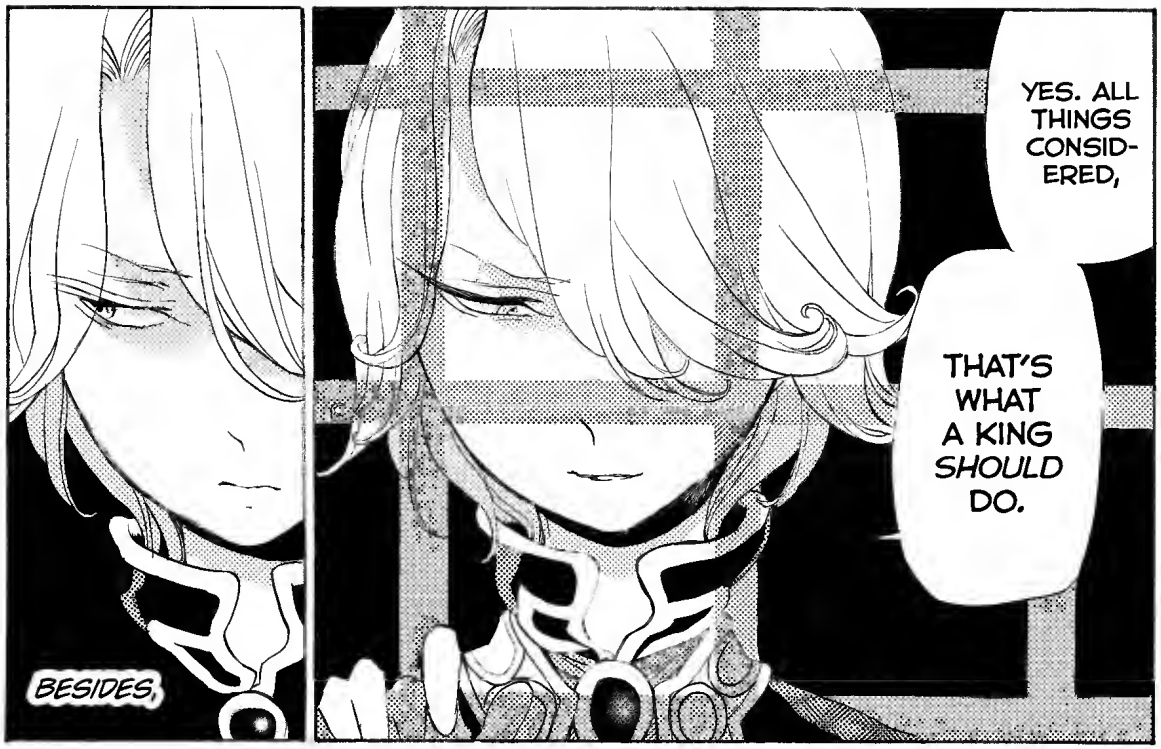
MY SON, PRENS ORHAN...
...IS TO BE MARRIED VERY SOON.
HE WILL BE CONFINED TO HIS ROOM UNTIL THE CEREMONY.
A WEDDING? THAT'S AN AWFULLY BIG DECISION.
IT IS NEC-ES-SARY.
MY SON IS TOO WAYWARD IN HIS BACHELOR-HOOD.
THAT IS WHY HE SOMETIMES BEHAVES AS HE DID DURING HIS OUTBURST THE OTHER DAY.
SETTLING DOWN SHOULD TEACH HIM A LITTLE MORE SELF-AWARENESS.

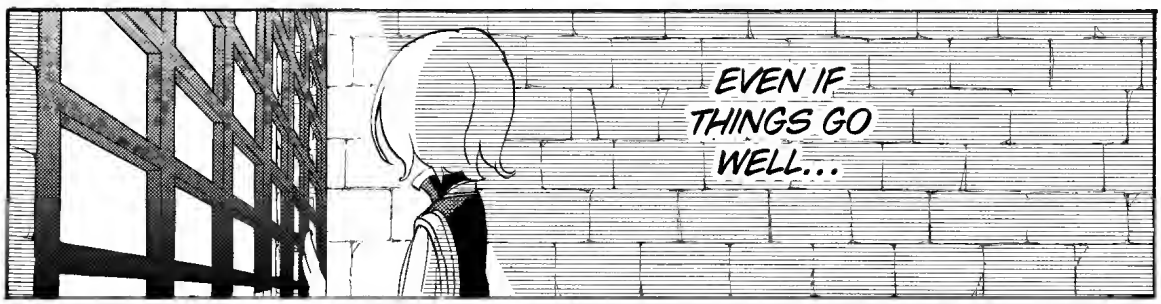
DOKUZUNCU
KULE GAOL


ALL OF THE CELLS IN THIS TOWER...
...HAVE SECRET PASSAGES THAT LEAD OUTSIDE.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE BACK IN TIME FOR MEALS AT SIX IN THE MORNING AND FOUR IN THE AFTERNOON, AS WELL AS THE MIDNIGHT PATROL,
YOU'RE FREE TO COME AND GO AS YOU PLEASE.


IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE...
THINGS ARE GOING *TOO* SMOOTH-LY.
SO SMOOTHLY, IT'S UNSETTLING.

COME THE WEDDING DAY,
IF SIDING WITH THE DERT SULTANLUK SEEMS TO BE THE SAFER BET,
IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE...
...THAT KULUCH WILL TURN ON US.


YES. ALL THINGS CONSID-ERED,
THAT'S WHAT A KING *SHOULD* DO.
BESIDES,


EVEN IF THINGS GO WELL...

PRENSES AISHE,
ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT WITH THIS?
?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
W-WELL...
WOULDN'T YOU RATHER...
...MARRY SOMEONE YOU LOVE?

OH?
AND HERE I THOUGHT TUGHRIL MAHMUT ESKI-PASHA...
WAS A CHILD WITHOUT AN INKLING AS TO THE WORKINGS OF THE HUMAN HEART,
BUT IT SEEMS YOU CAN BE COMPASSION-ATE, AFTER ALL.

BUT IN MONARCHIES LIKE THE DERT SULTANLUK, POLITICAL MARRIAGES ARE THE NORM.
MARRYING FOR LOVE MAY BE COMMON SENSE IN TORQYE,
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY.
PRINCESSES DESTINED FOR POLITICAL MARRIAGES...
AND ARE RECOGNIZED AS A BINDING FORCE BETWEEN NATIONS.
...ARE GIVEN THE PROPER EDUCATION TO FULFILL THEIR DUTIES,
I AM PROUD OF THAT FACT.
IT IS NOTHING TO GRIEVE OVER.
BESIDES...
...

EVEN IF THERE WAS SOMEONE I LOVED,
THERE'S NO GUARAN-TEE...
THAT THEY WOULD LOVE ME IN RETURN.
CRANK
CRANK
CRANK
CRANK

IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME SEEING A DOLL LIKE THIS?
CRANK
CRANK
CRANK
CRANK
CRANK
Y-YES!
NOD
YOU'RE A GENIUS INVENTOR, UNCLE!
HEH HEH HEH. THIS IS CALLED AN AUTOMATON, MADE IN THE EASTERN EMPIRE OF CHINILI.
Rumeriana
Great Phoinike canal
Liman
West Rumeriana
East Rumeriana
WORKING AS A PRIEST IN LIMAN,
ALL SORTS OF PECULIAR TOOLS AND GADGETS...
...MAKE THEIR WAY TO ME THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS.

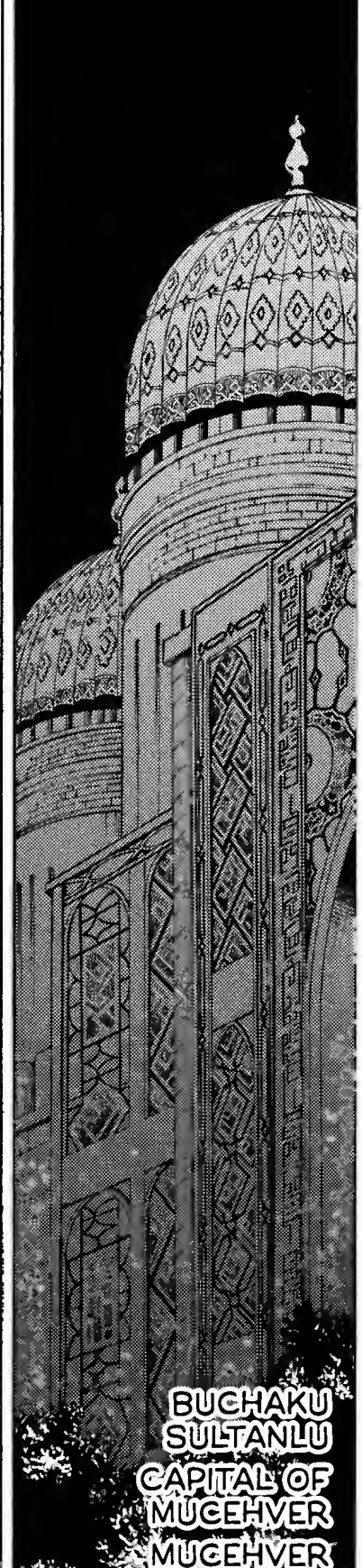
BEYAZIT WILL USE THE KNOWLEDGE HE'S ACQUIRED...
AND SOMEDAY,
...TO SUPPORT ME AND MY MUZRAK.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
YES, BROTHER.
I'M ALWAYS ON YOUR SIDE.

HUFF
HUFF
HEAVE
TCH!
THERE THEY ARE!
O-
OKAY ...!
THIS WAY, BEYOLU!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WHAT'S WITH THEM?
HOW DID THEY FIND OUR CHADUR*?
WHIF
*CHADUR: TENT.

?!
GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
MAN ...
CHIK
COME ON OUT!
YOU'RE UP,
CATERINA!

Buchaku Sultanlu 2nd Sultan
YAĞ* UZUN

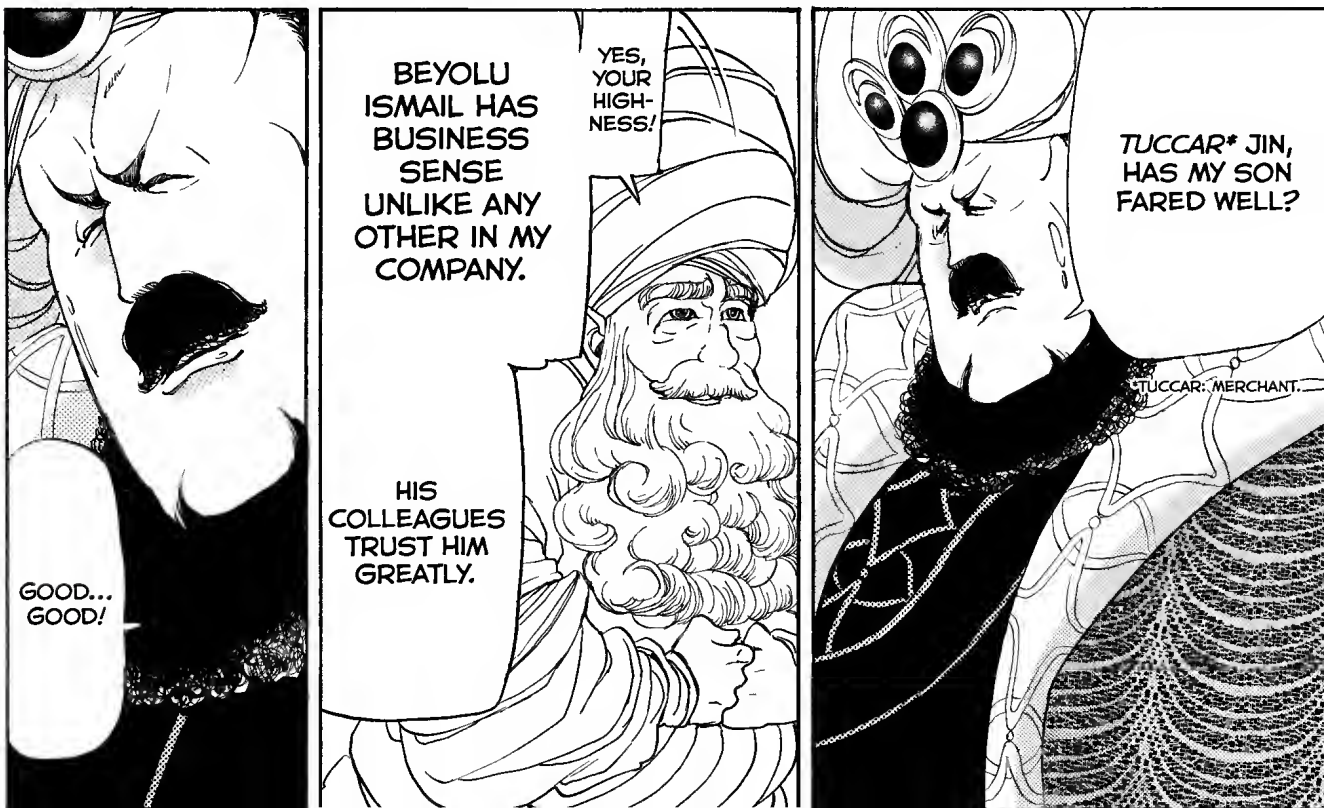
*YAĞ: OIL.



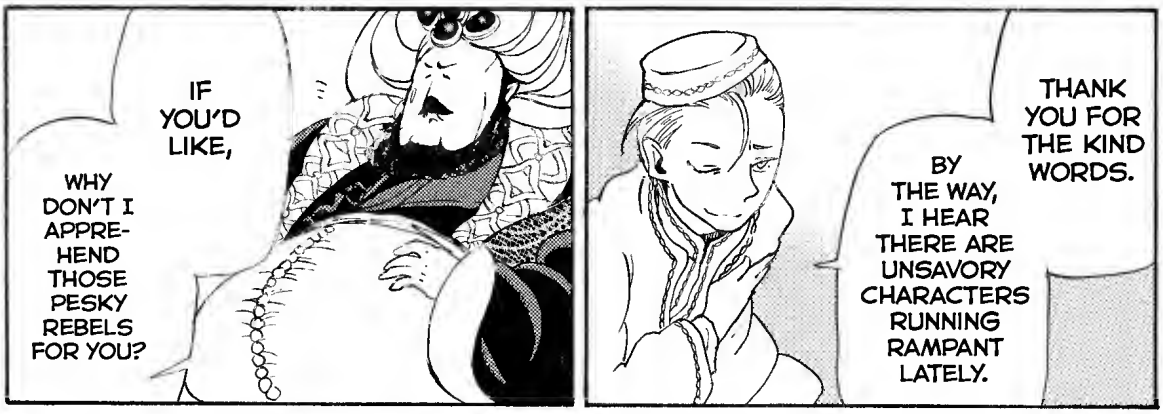
BUCHAKU SULTANLU CAPITAL OF MÜCEHVER
MÜCEHVER SARAY*

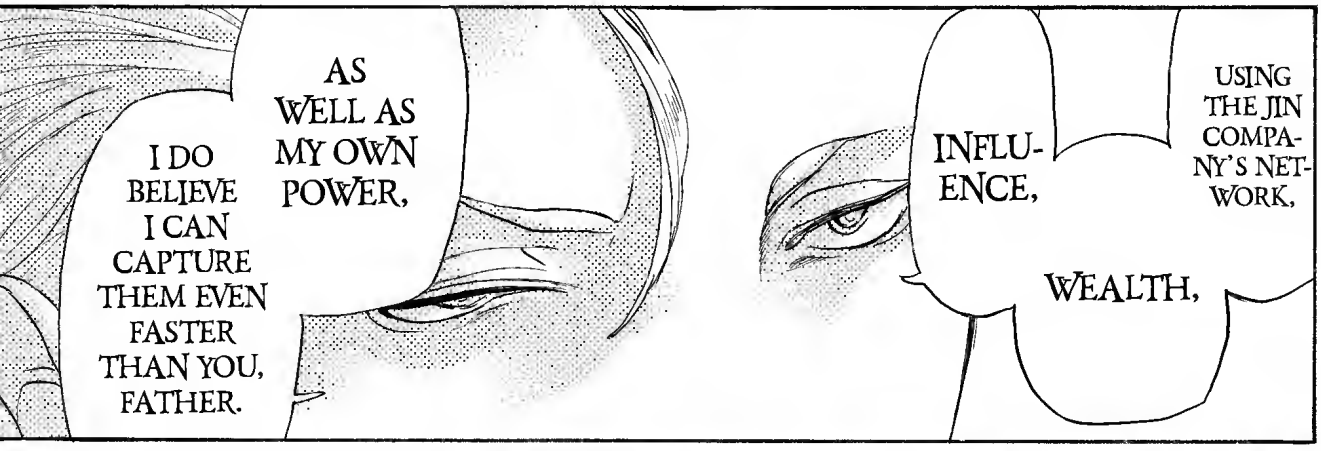
*MÜCEHVER SARAY: JEWELED PALACE.

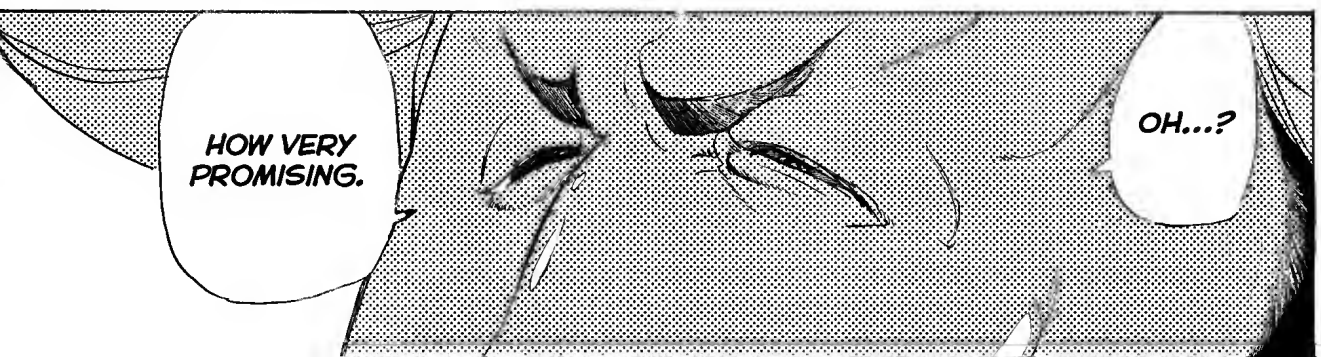
*KURK-BESHINCI BEYOLU: 45TH HEIR



I ENTRUSTED ALL 77 OF MY SONS TO THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MERCHANTS IN THE COUNTRY,
BUT I HAD PARTICULARLY HIGH HOPES FOR YOU.
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, ISMAIL.


THANK YOU FOR THE KIND WORDS.
BY THE WAY, I HEAR THERE ARE UNSAVORY CHARACTERS RUNNING RAMPANT LATELY.
IF YOU'D LIKE, WHY DON'T I APPREHEND THOSE PESKY REBELS FOR YOU?


USING THE JIN COMPANY'S NETWORK,
INFLUENCE,
WEALTH,
AS WELL AS MY OWN POWER,
I DO BELIEVE I CAN CAPTURE THEM EVEN FASTER THAN YOU, FATHER.


OH...?
HOW VERY PROMISING.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

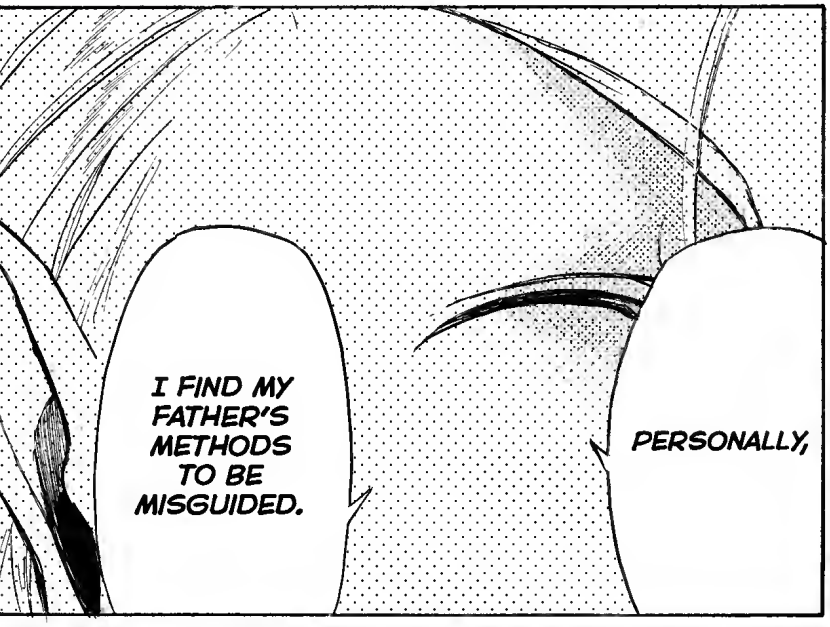
FLAP

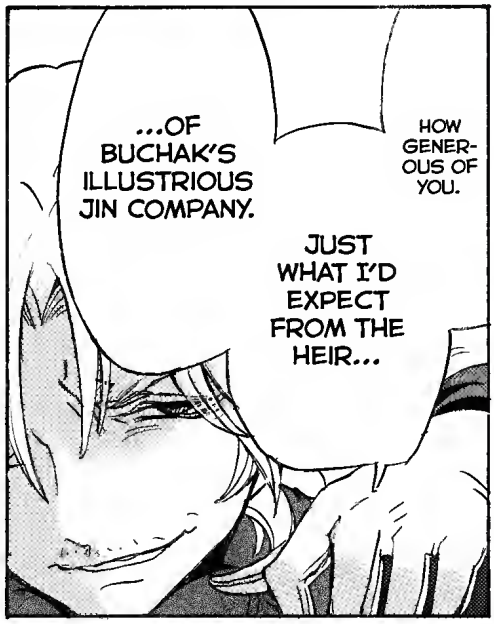
PAR-
DON
US.
WE DID
NOT MEAN
TO CAUSE
A COMMO-
TION.
!
STOP
WHAT
YOU'RE
DOING
AND EMPTY
YOUR BAGS
IMMEDIATE-
LY!
WE ARE
MEMBERS
OF SULTAN
UZUN'S
PALACE
GUARD!
PLEASE
TAKE
THIS AS
A TOKEN
OF OUR
APOLOGY.
WE'RE
WITH
THE JIN
COMPANY.
AH...
HM...
ERR...

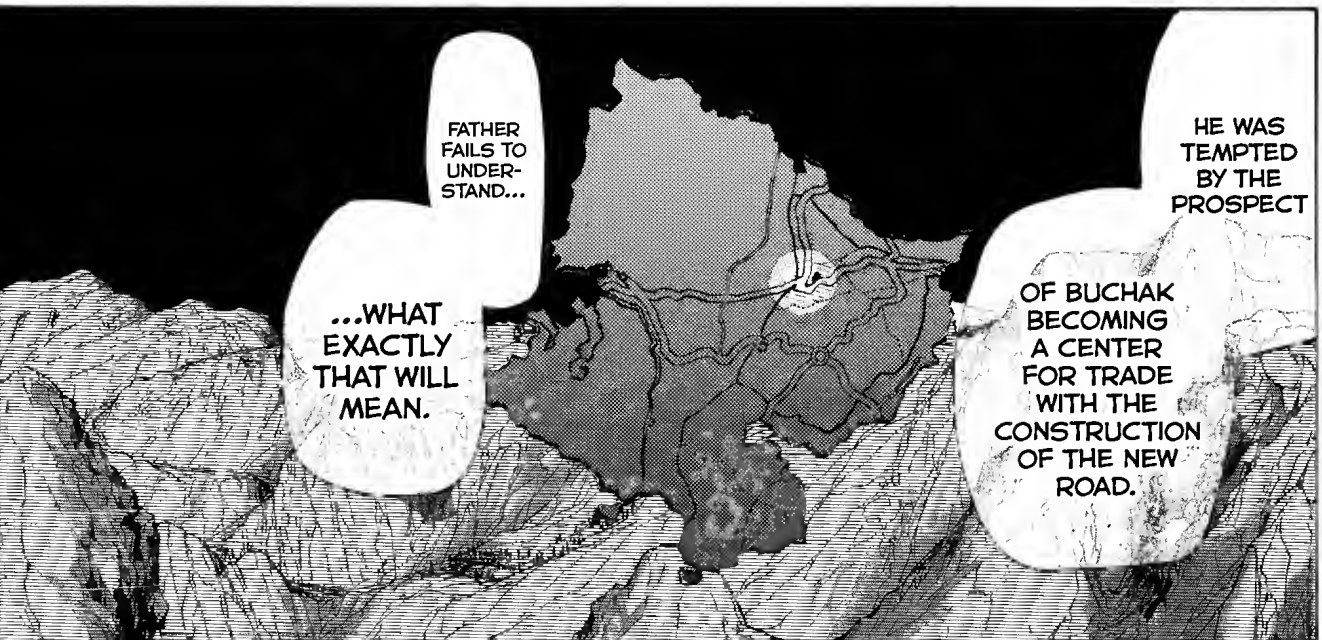
WELCOME TO MY HOME, BEYOLU BEYAZIT, SULEYMAN BEY.
IN COMPANY BUYUK CHADUR*
*BUYUK CHADUR: GREAT TENT
BUT I WANTED TO SPEAK TO YOU...
...BEFORE MY FATHER GOT HIS HANDS ON YOU.
SORRY FOR THE ROUGH TREATMENT,

*ORQUESTRA DE MONTANA: MOUNTAIN ORCHESTRA.

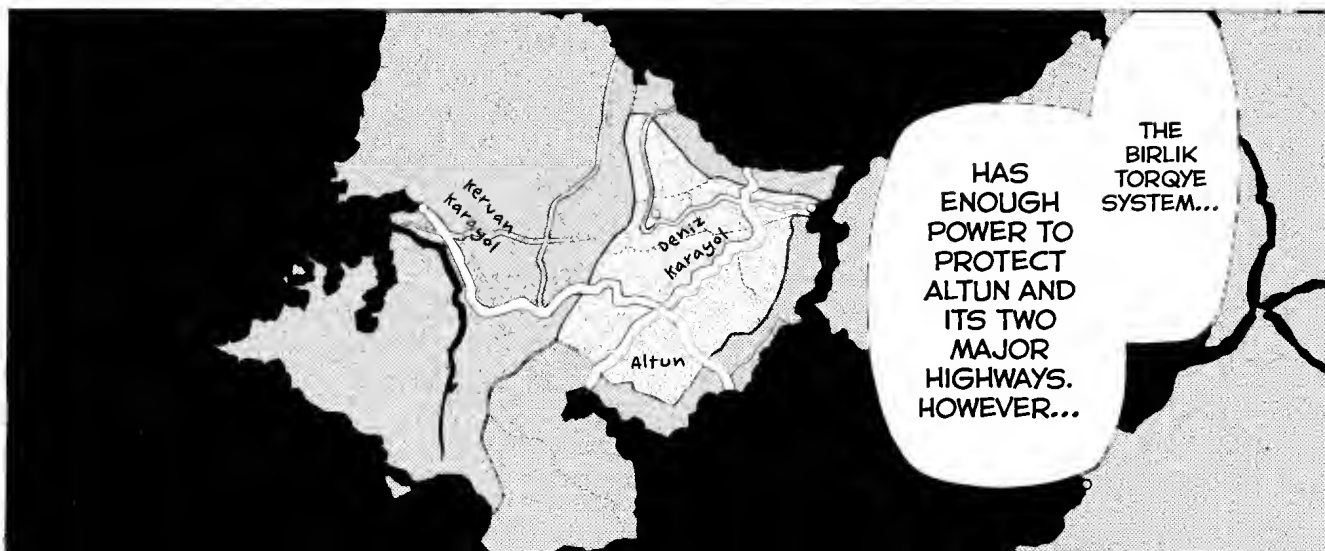
330 SERIFS A MONTH PER HEAD.
OR ABOUT 110 GEMS.
A SMALL PRICE TO PAY IF THEY GET ME RESULTS.

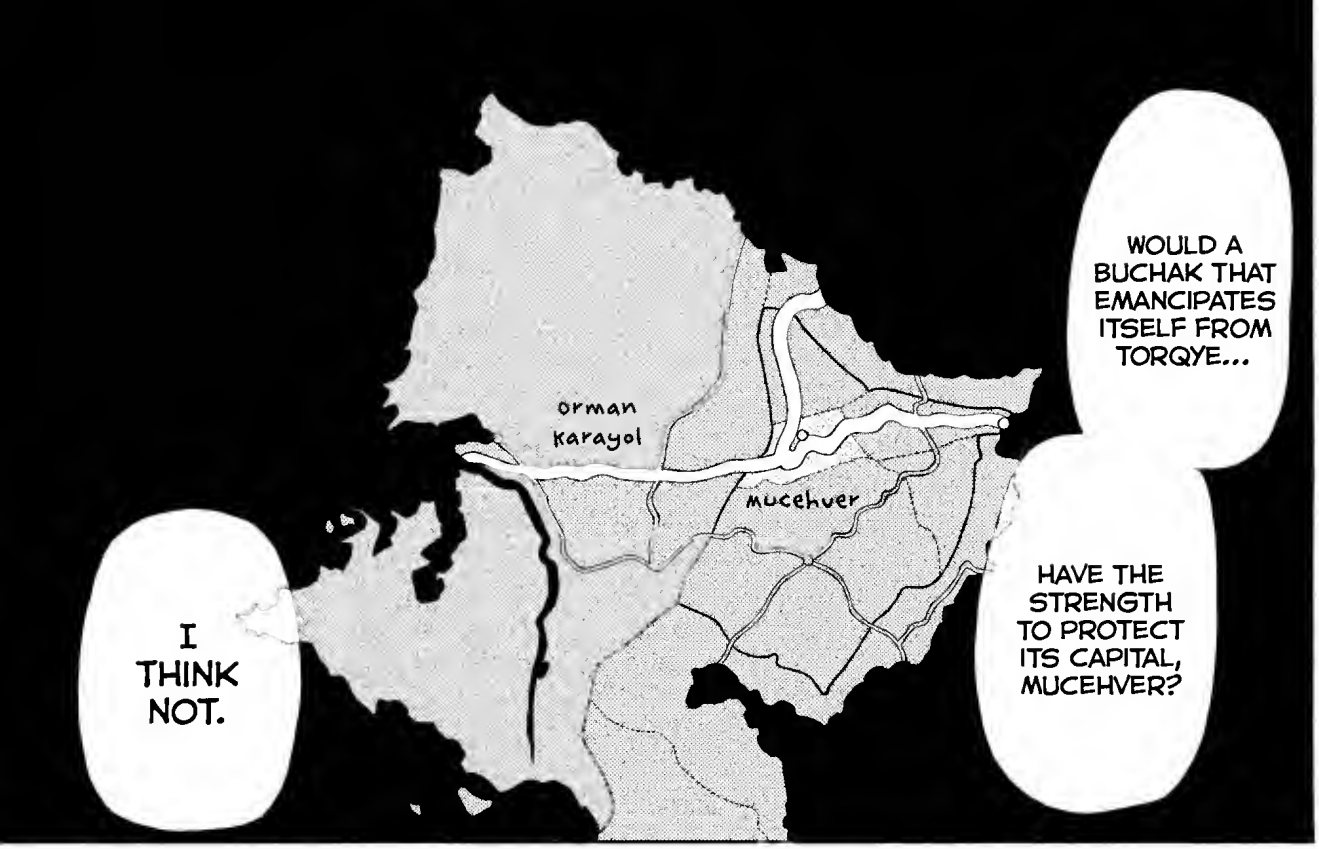

I FIND MY FATHER'S METHODS TO BE MISGUIDED.
PERSONALLY,

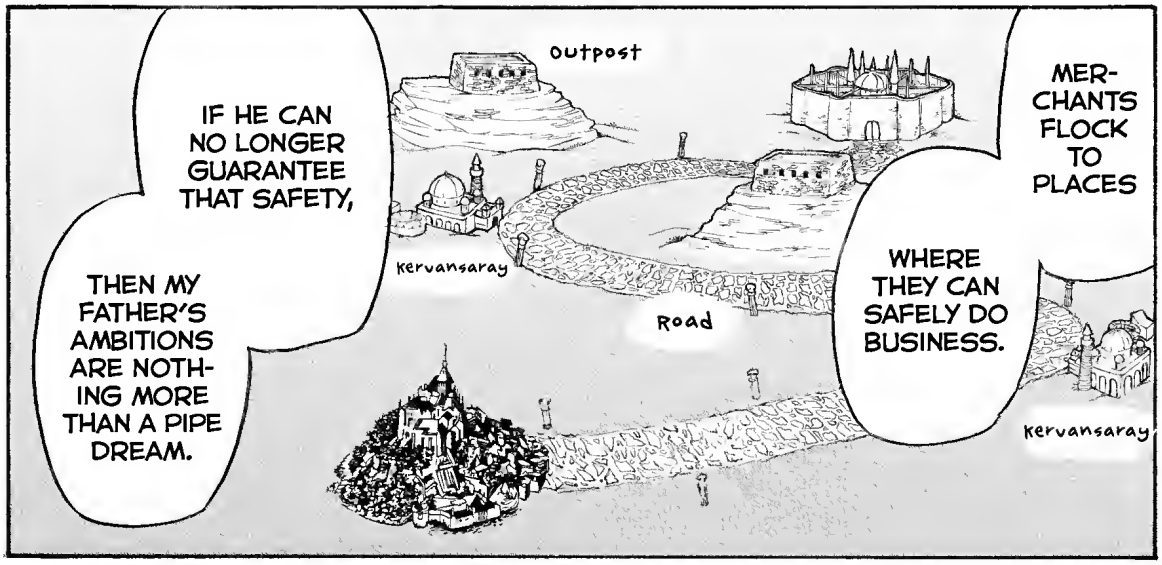

...OF BUCHAK'S ILLUSTRIOUS JIN COMPANY.
HOW GENER-OUS OF YOU.
JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM THE HEIR...


FATHER FAILS TO UNDER-STAND...
...WHAT EXACTLY THAT WILL MEAN.
HE WAS TEMPTED BY THE PROSPECT
OF BUCHAK BECOMING A CENTER FOR TRADE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW ROAD.

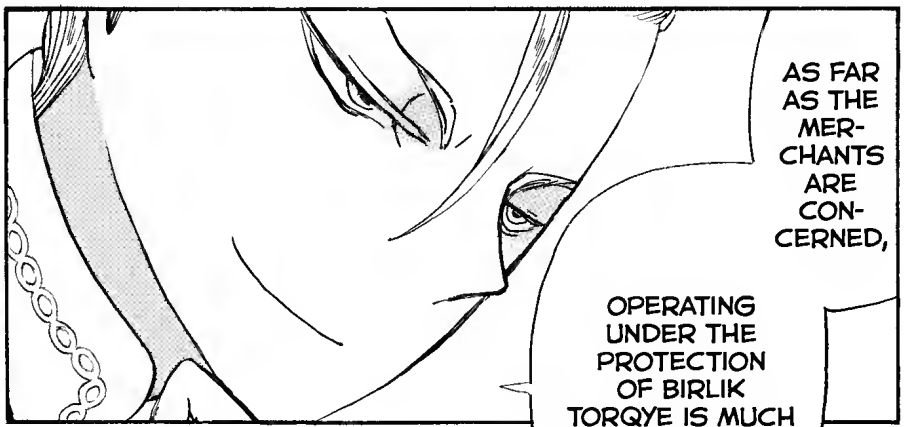
BECOMING A CENTER OF TRADE...
...MEANS YOUR COUNTRY WILL BECOME A PLACE SO APPEALING...
THAT EVERYONE WILL WISH TO TAKE CONTROL OF IT.
AND WITHOUT THE POWER TO DEFEND YOURSELVES, YOU WILL INEVITABLY BE INVADED.


THE BIRLIK TORQYE SYSTEM...
HAS ENOUGH POWER TO PROTECT ALTUN AND ITS TWO MAJOR HIGHWAYS. HOWEVER...
Kervan Karayol
Deniz Karayol
Altun


WOULD A BUCHAK THAT EMANCIPATES ITSELF FROM TORQYE...
HAVE THE STRENGTH TO PROTECT ITS CAPITAL, MUCEHVER?
I THINK NOT.
orman karayol
mucehver


IF HE CAN NO LONGER GUARANTEE THAT SAFETY,
THEN MY FATHER'S AMBITIONS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A PIPE DREAM.
outpost
kervansaray
Road
MERCHANTS FLOCK TO PLACES
WHERE THEY CAN SAFELY DO BUSINESS.
kervansaray

I GETCHA.
LOOKS LIKE WE MIGHT GET ALONG, AFTER ALL.


AS FAR AS THE MERCHANTS ARE CONCERNED,
OPERATING UNDER THE PROTECTION OF BIRLIK TORQYE IS MUCH PREFERABLE.

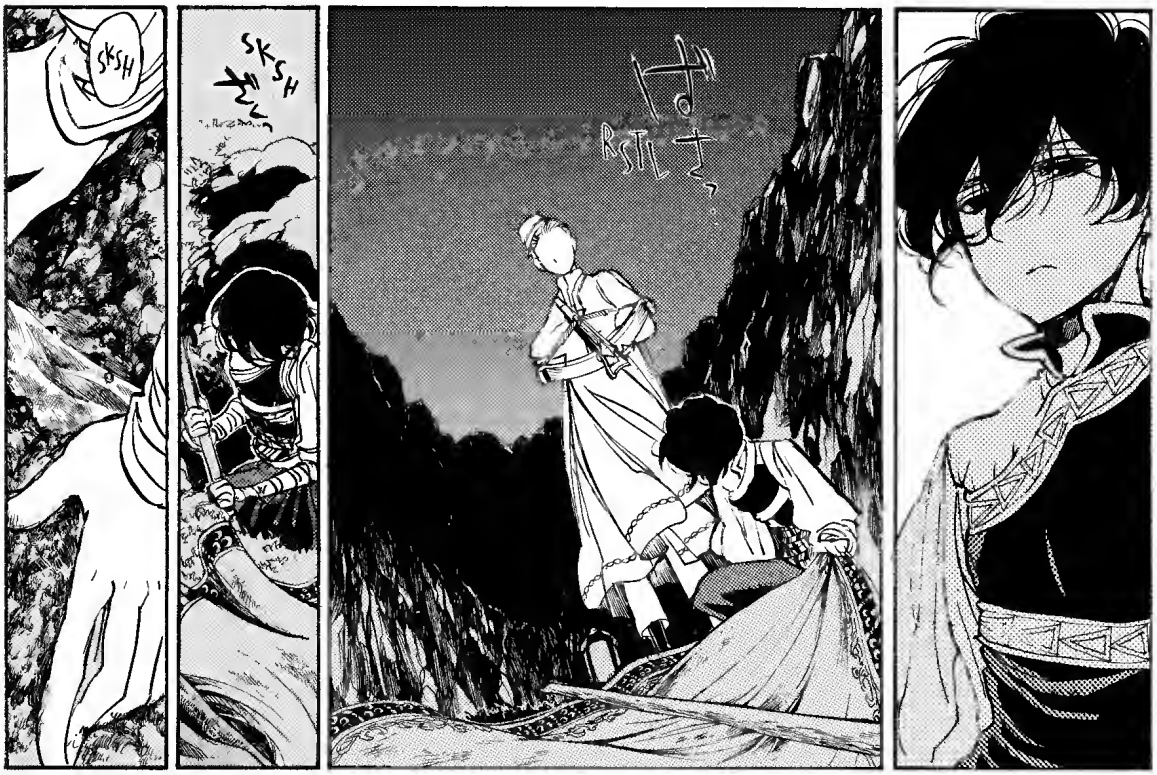
HOW MUCH ARE YOU ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE?
SUPPOSING WE COOPERATE,
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.

I'M SURE YOU MUST BE WELL-PREPARED.
YOU'RE PLOTTING A REBELLION, AFTER ALL.

THE BEYOLU HAS 500 MEN UNDER HIS COMMAND,
AND TORQYE WILL SPARE NO EXPENSE PROVIDING WEAPONS, HORSES, AND SUPPLIES.
AND?
AND WE HAVE AN ALLY IN THE KULUCH SULTANLU.
OUR COMRADE, PRENSES AISHE'S NISHANLU.
AND?
...
THAT'S EVERYTHING.
WELL, THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.
NOT EVEN CLOSE.

AND ASSUMING WE GET 5,000 TROOPS FROM KULUCH,
I CAN HIRE 100 ORQUESTA FIGHTERS PER MONTH, MAX.
MEANWHILE, YOU HAVE, WHAT, 500 SUBORDINATES?
BALTA COMMANDS 5,000 TROOPS AT MOST.
ALONG WITH A 10,000-STRONG ARMY COMPOSED OF THEIR FAMOUS LIGHT CAVALRY AND INFANTRY.
MUZRAK HAS BALABAN'S PRIZED YENICHERI CORPS,
BUCHAK HAS 7,000 INFANTRY, 1,000 CAVALRY, AND 500 MEN IN MY FATHER'S PALACE GUARD, TOTALING 8,500 UNITS.
5,600.
IT'LL BE 23,500
VERSUS...
PLEASE WAIT. BEYOLU ISMAIL.
HONESTLY, AT THIS RATE, IT'D BE A BETTER IDEA TO TURN YOU IN TO BALABAN...
...AND TRY TO BUY HIS FAVOR.
WHAT A SHAME.
I THOUGHT WE MIGHT HAVE HAD A CHANCE.
YEESH.
THIS WON'T WORK AT ALL.

I'D LIKE YOU TO COME WITH ME...
...TO THE SITE OF OUR CHADUR.
NO GUARDS, JUST THE TWO OF US.
IF YOU DO,
I'LL SHOW YOU THE POWER THAT CAN TAKE DOWN MY BROTHER BALABAN.
WHA?!
HE JUST PLANS TO ESCAPE.
YOU MUSTN'T, MASTER ISMAIL!
...
INTERESTING.
KA-
CHNK
YOU'D BETTER NOT BE BLUFFING.

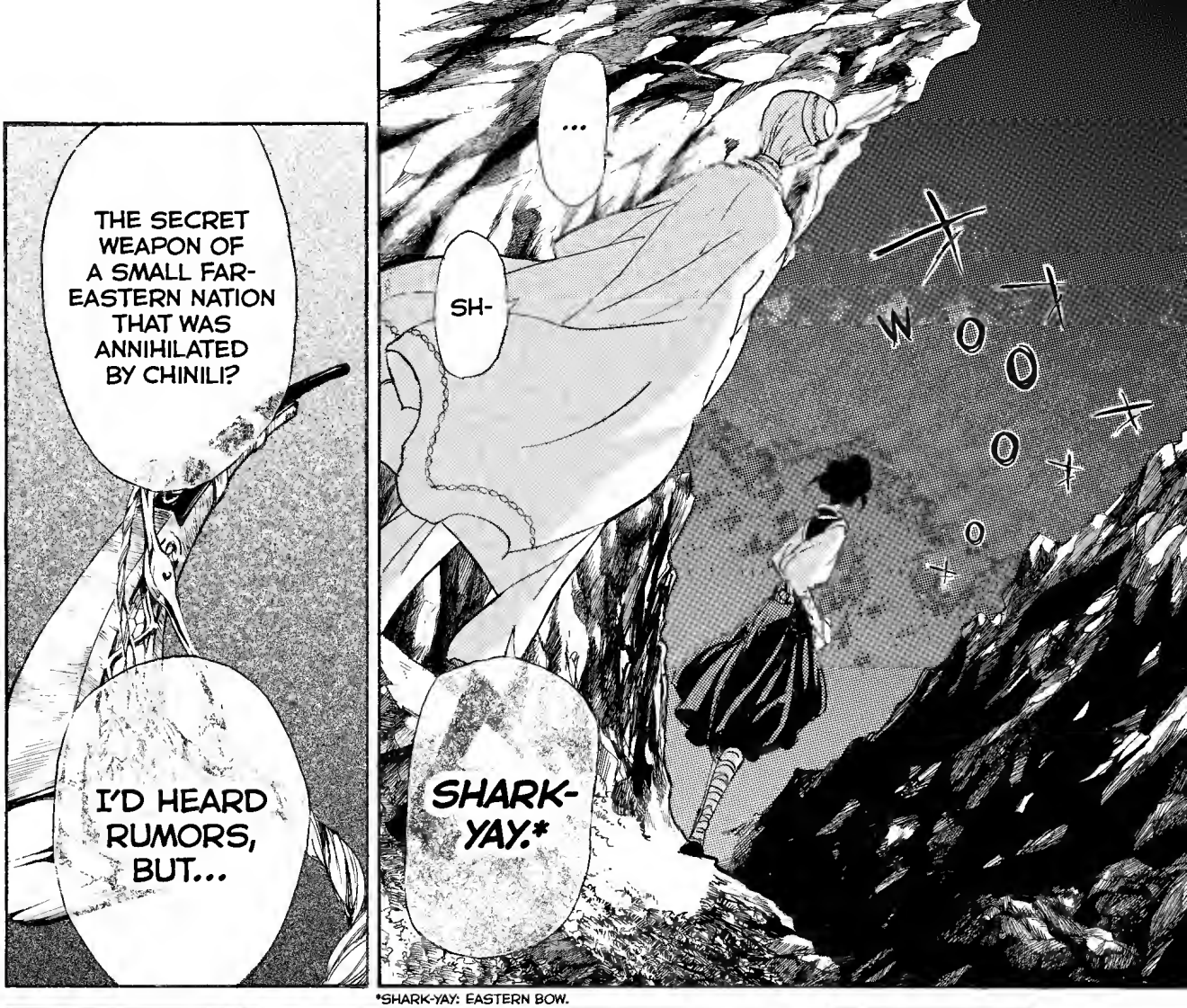

SKSH
SKSH

PLEASE WATCH.

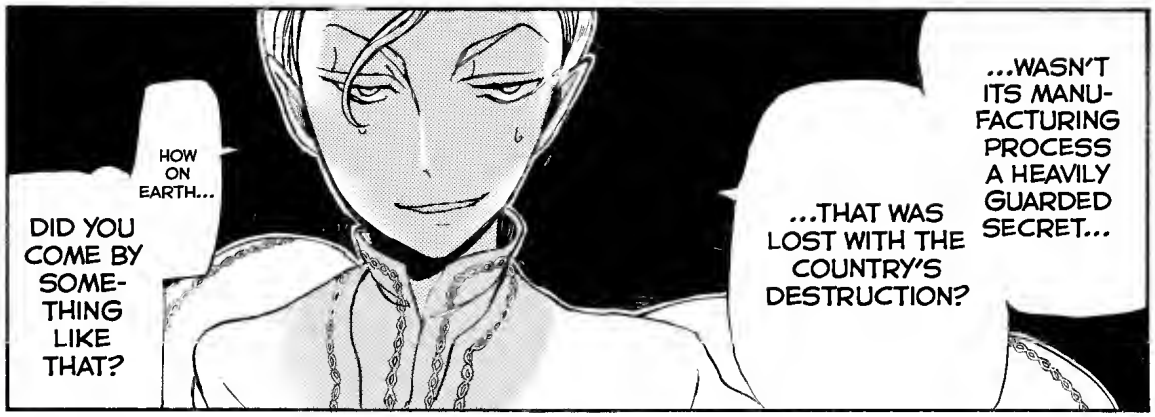
SLIP
HUH?

WAIT.
IS THAT ...?
CHK
HEY...
SIZZZ

BA



*SHARK-YAY: EASTERN BOW.



*NAVALAT: THE PATRON WATER SPIRIT OF ERMISM.

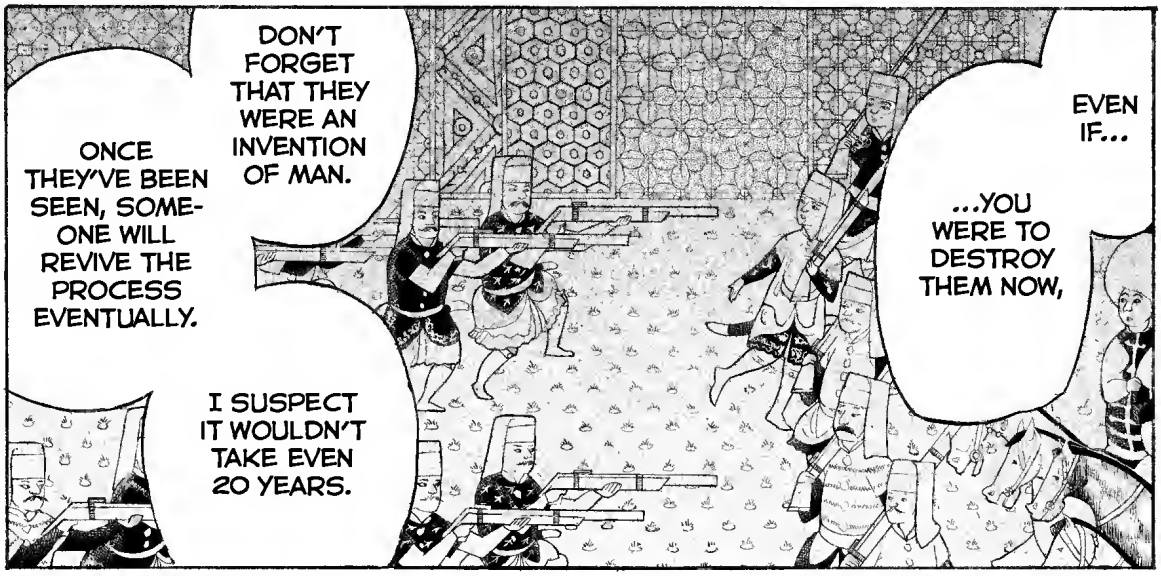
NOW WE'RE TALKING...
THIS SHOULD EVEN THE ODDS PLENTY!
NO, WITH THESE, EVEN AFTER THIS BATTLE...
BEYOLU.

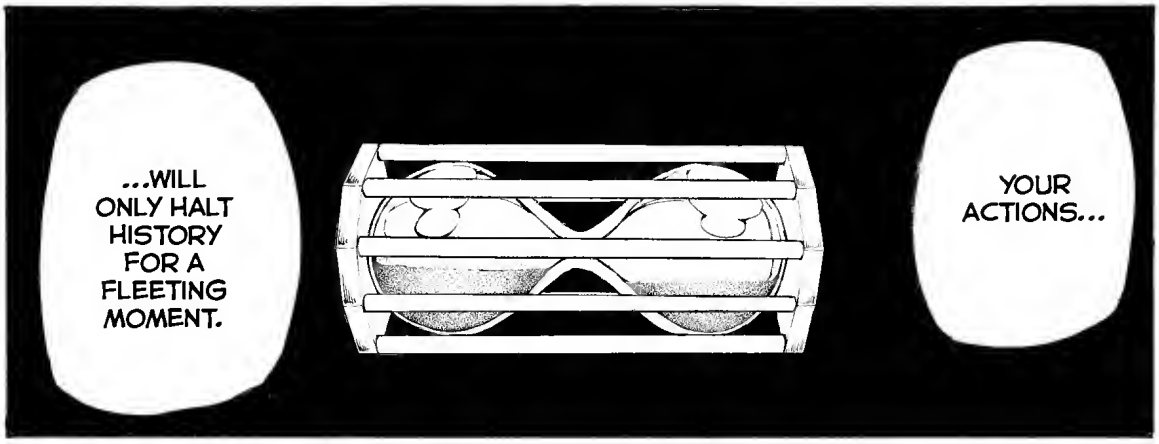
THIS STAYS BETWEEN YOU AND ME.
ONCE THE FIGHTING IS OVER,
I'LL HAVE ALL OF THE SHARK-YAY DESTROYED.

IF YOU CAN'T AGREE TO MY CONDITIONS,
THEN WE WILL FORGET THIS CONVER-SATION EVER HAPPENED.

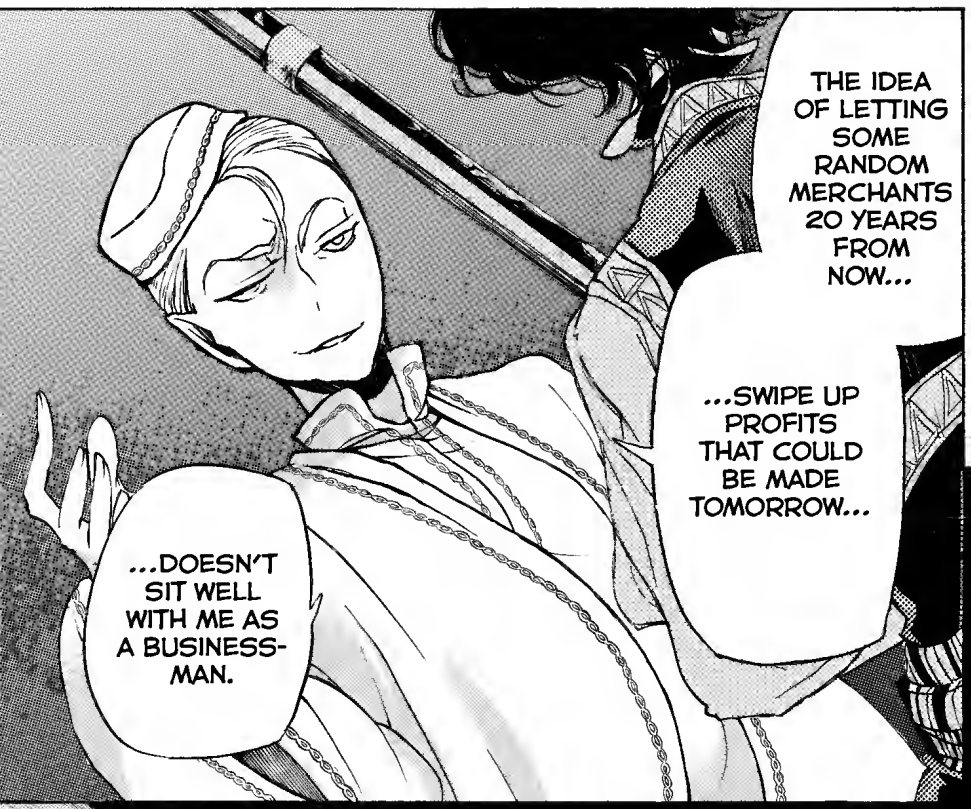
THIS IS EVERYTHING I HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE.

I DON'T MIND ACCEPTING YOUR TERMS,
BUT REALISTICALLY SPEAKING, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DESTROY THE SHARK-YAY.


EVEN IF...
...YOU WERE TO DESTROY THEM NOW,
DON'T FORGET THAT THEY WERE AN INVENTION OF MAN.
ONCE THEY'VE BEEN SEEN, SOMEONE WILL REVIVE THE PROCESS EVENTUALLY.
I SUSPECT IT WOULDN'T TAKE EVEN 20 YEARS.


YOUR ACTIONS...
...WILL ONLY HALT HISTORY FOR A FLEETING MOMENT.

IN THAT CASE,
WHY NOT USE THEM TO MAKE A FORTUNE OURSELVES?

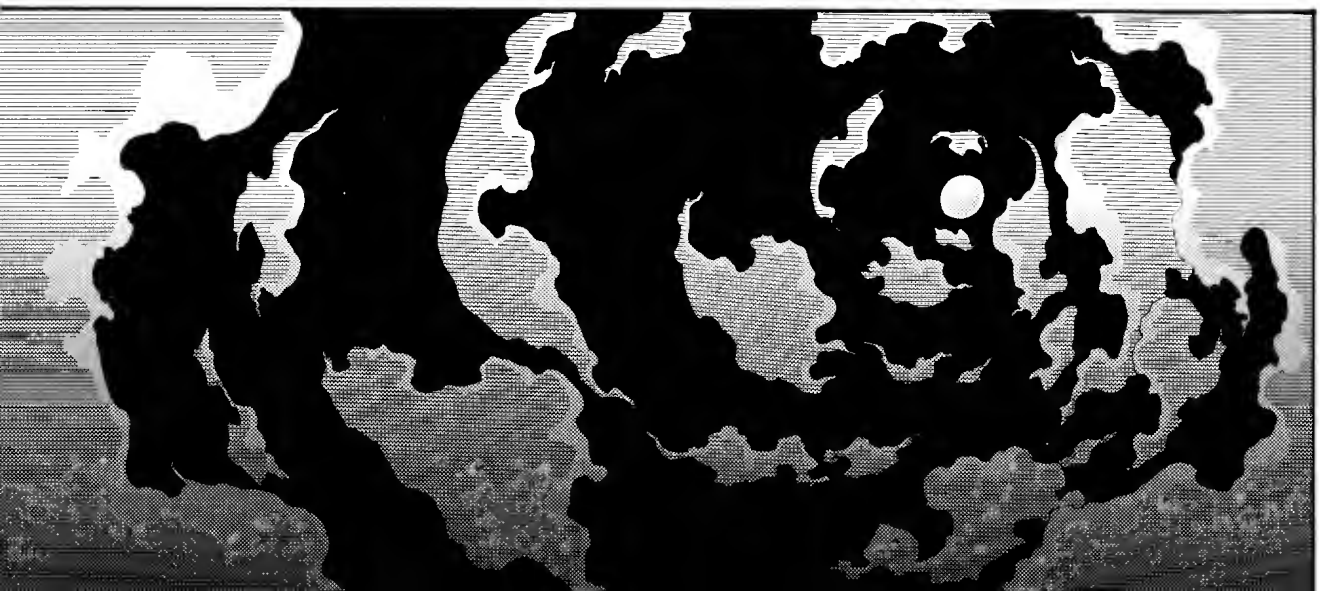

THE IDEA OF LETTING SOME RANDOM MERCHANTS 20 YEARS FROM NOW...
...SWIPE UP PROFITS THAT COULD BE MADE TOMORROW...
...DOESN'T SIT WELL WITH ME AS A BUSINESS-MAN.

THEY'D SURELY FETCH A PRETTY PENNY IF WE WERE TO SELL THEM— AFTER THE FIGHTING ENDS, OF COURSE.

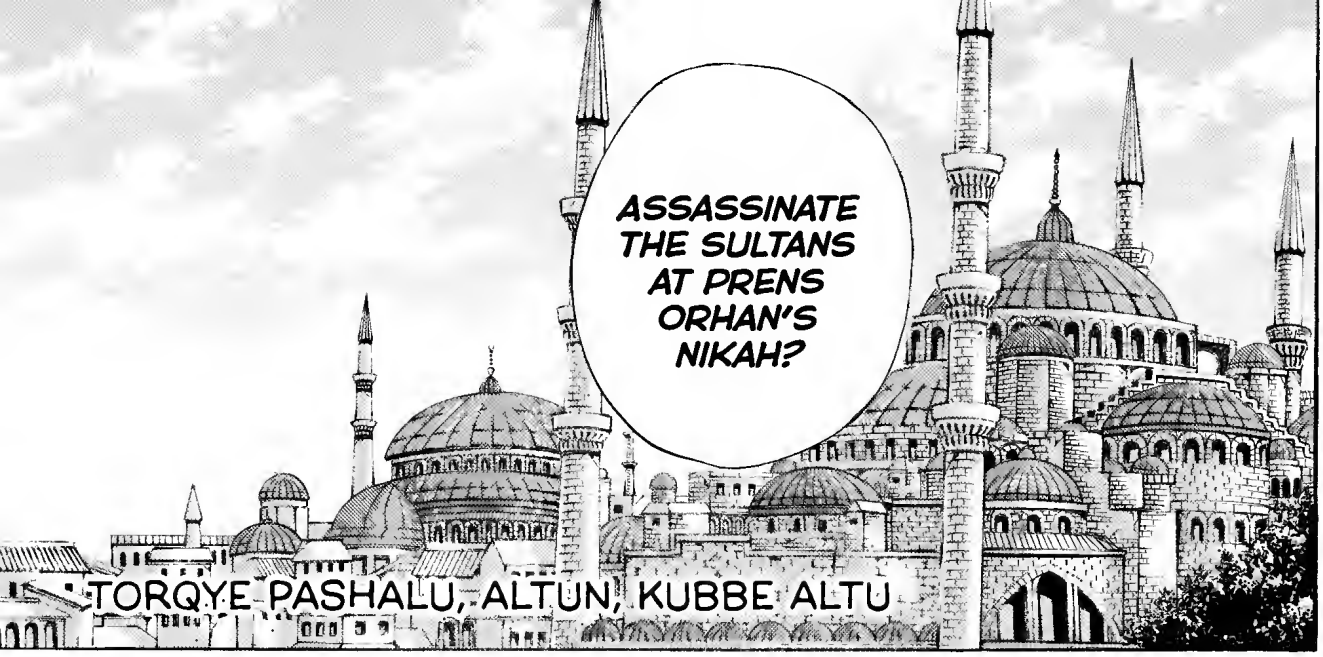
IF YOU WON'T CONSENT TO MY TERMS,
THEN WE WON'T COME TO AN AGREE-MENT, EVEN IF YOU HAVE ME KILLED.
!

IF THAT HAPPENS, THEN THE KNOWL-EDGE OF HOW TO USE THIS WEAPON,
AS WELL AS THE LOCATION OF THE OTHER 76...
...WILL DIE WITH ME.
...
VERY WELL.
WITH THESE,
AT LEAST WE CAN GET RID OF MY OLD MAN.
...
WELL, LET ME KNOW IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND.

IT'S A DEAL.



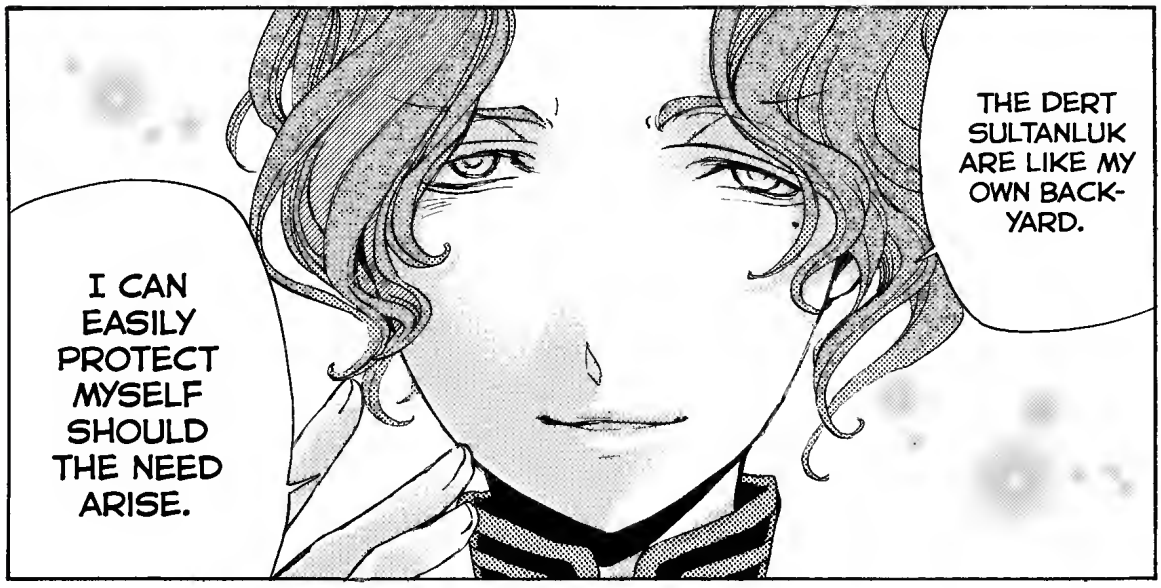
HMM...
SELIM'S SON IS GETTING MARRIED, IS HE?
THINGS ARE ABOUT TO BECOME VERY BUSY.


ASSASSINATE THE SULTANS AT PRENS ORHAN'S NIKAH?
TORQYE PASHALU, ALTUN, KUBBE ALTU

REGARDING THAT MATTER,
I BELIEVE THERE IS NO ONE BETTER SUITED THAN MYSELF.

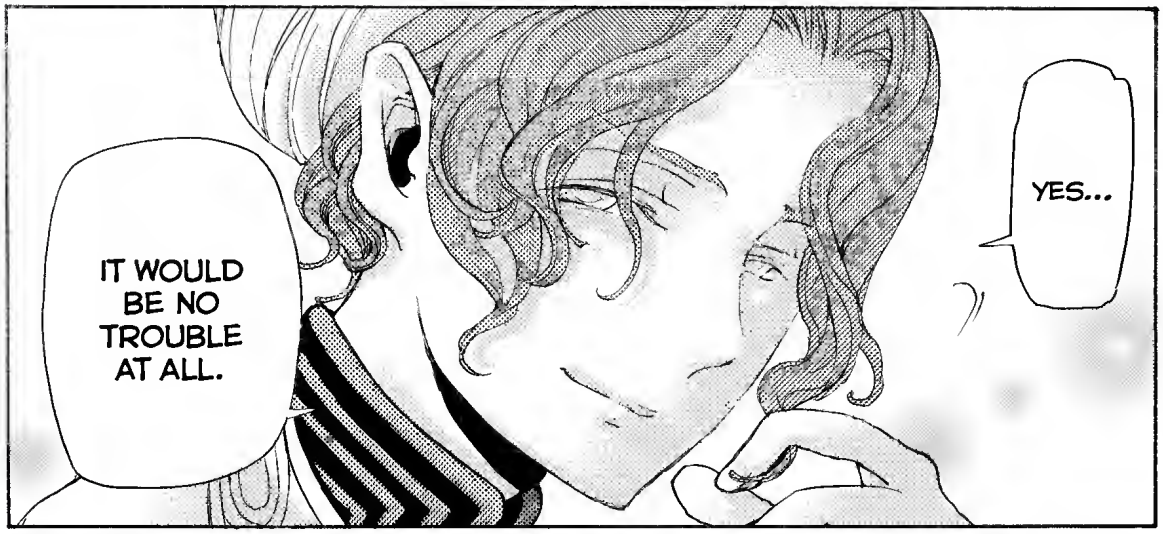
HMM... IN THAT CASE,
THE QUESTION IS WHICH OF THE VEZIRS DO WE DISPATCH TO THE CEREMONY?
THERE IS NO GUARANTEE OF A SAFE RETURN.
THAT'S CERTAINLY...
A BOLD IDEA, TO SAY THE LEAST.

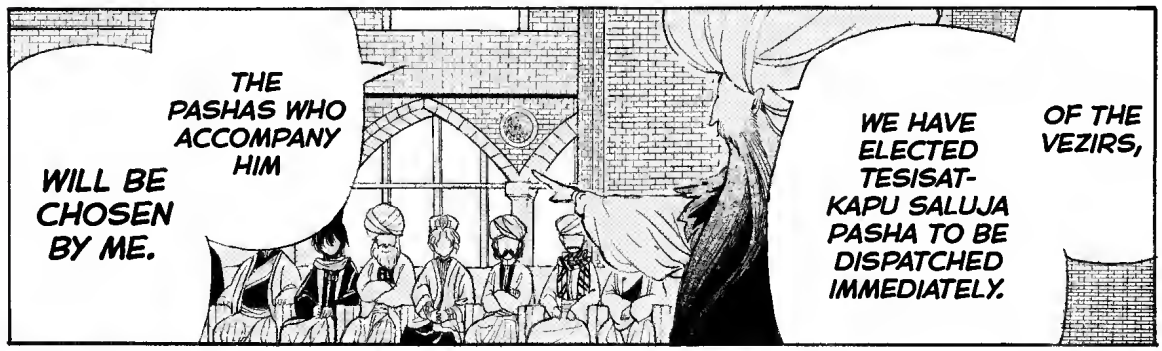
MY FAMILY...
...HAS BEEN ON FRIENDLY TERMS WITH THE FOUR ROYAL HOUSES SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.
Tesisat-Kapu Saluja Pasha
VEZIR
3RD EYALET IDARECI

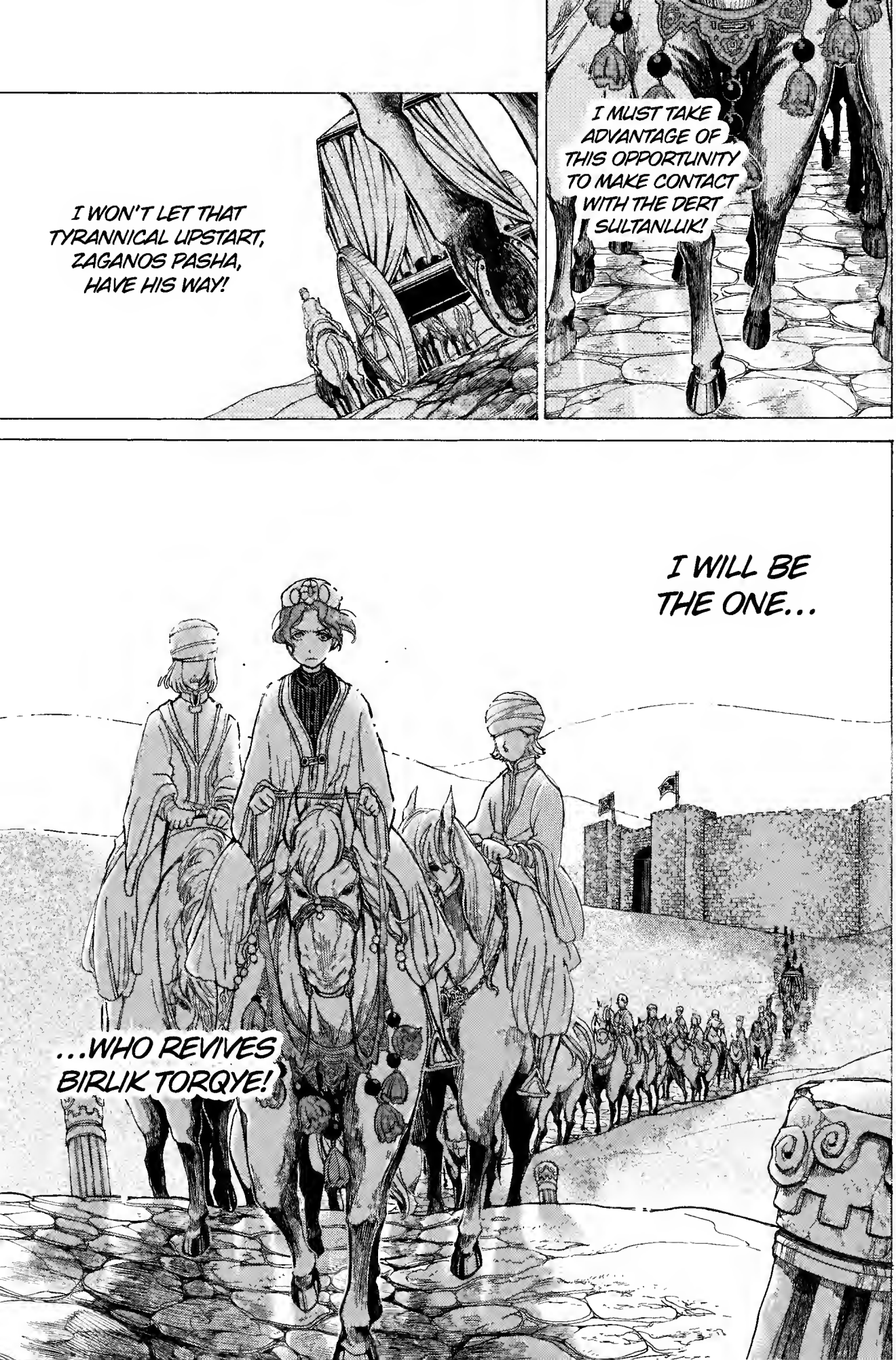

THE DERT SULTANLUK ARE LIKE MY OWN BACK-YARD.
I CAN EASILY PROTECT MYSELF SHOULD THE NEED ARISE.

Zehir Zaganos Pasha
VEZIR
1ST EYALET IDARECI
Sehir Halil Pasha
VEZIR
7TH EYALET IDARECI
I SEE. INDEED...
THE TESISAT-KAPU HOUSE IS THE MOST DISTIN-GUISHED IN ALL OF TORQYE.
ITS MEMBERS KNOW HOW TO ASSO-CIATE WITH THE SULTANS BETTER THAN ANYONE.
TORQYE PASHALU
Buyuk Pasha
CAN WE ENTRUST THIS MATTER TO YOU, SALUJA PASHA?
BUT OF COURSE!
I SHALL SEE THIS TASK THROUGH, EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE.
IN THAT CASE, SALUJA PASHA.

Kuluch
Buchak
Muzrak
Balta
Toraye
ON YOUR WAY TO KULUCH, WOULD YOU MIND VISITING THE OTHER SULTANS...
...AND MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE THEY'LL BE PRESENT AT THE WEDDING?
THIS PLAN WILL FAIL IF EVEN ONE OF THEM IS ABSENT.


YES...
IT WOULD BE NO TROUBLE AT ALL.


OF THE VEZIRS,
WE HAVE ELECTED TESISAT-KAPU SALUJA PASHA TO BE DISPATCHED IMMEDIATELY.
THE PASHAS WHO ACCOMPANY HIM
WILL BE CHOSEN BY ME.

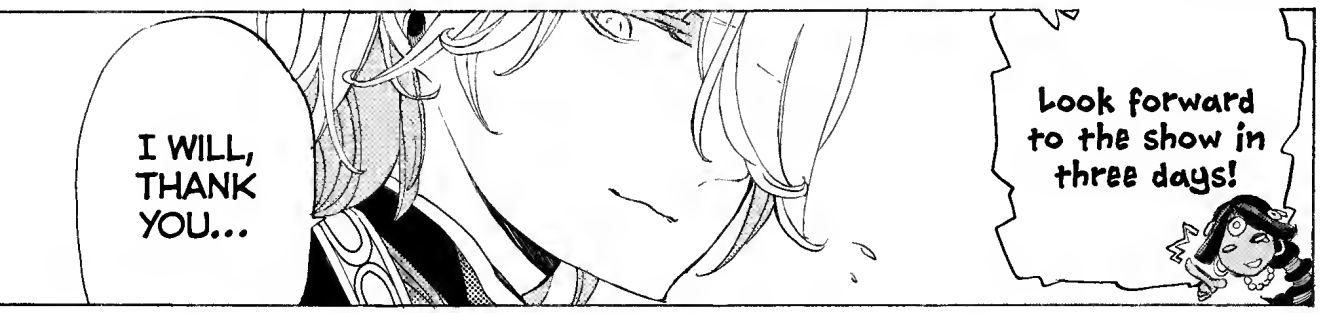

I WON'T LET THAT TYRANNICAL UPSTART, ZAGANOS PASHA, HAVE HIS WAY!
I MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE DERT SULTANLUK!
I WILL BE THE ONE...
...WHO REVIVES BIRLIK TORQYE!

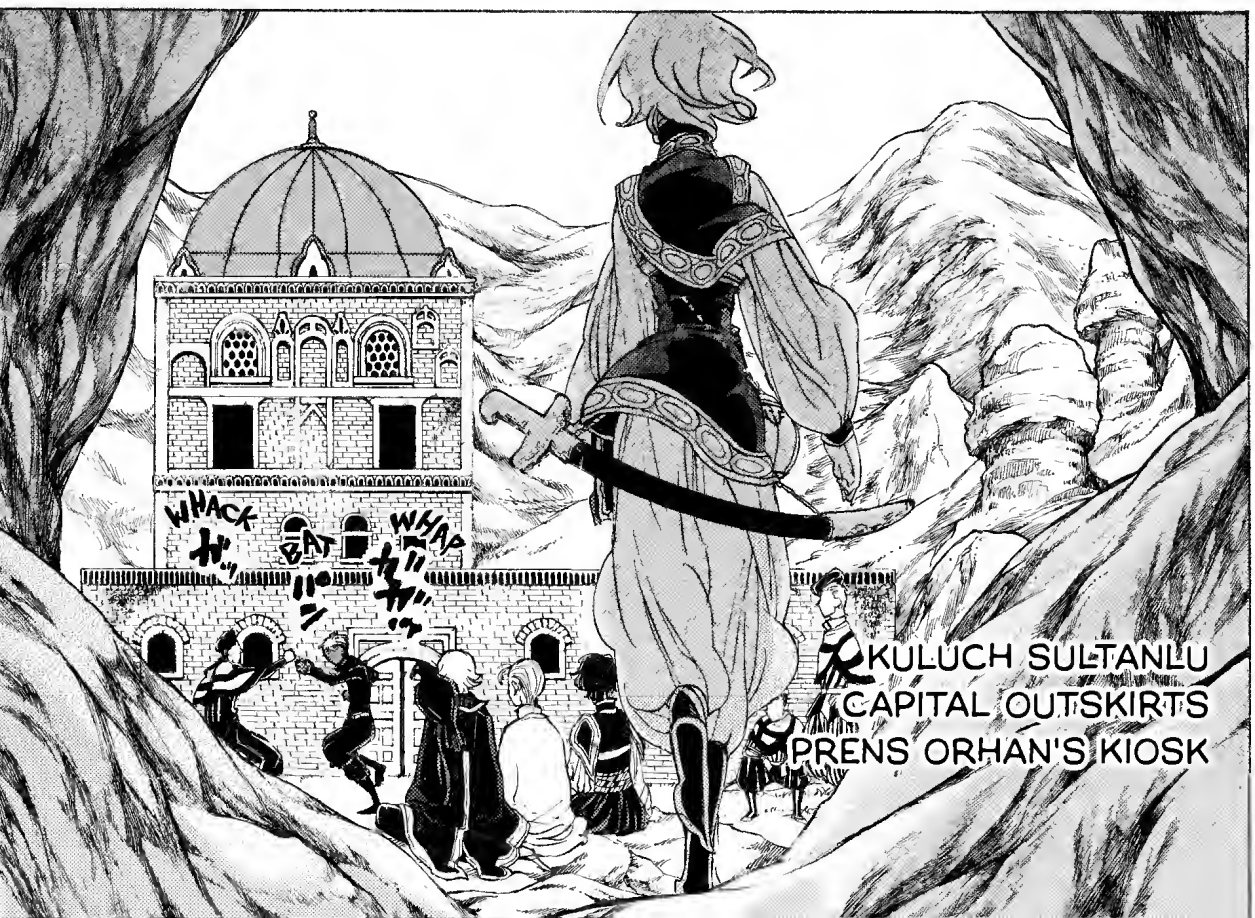
SO, THOSE THE FIFTY MEN...
HAND-PICKED BY THE BUYUK PASHA.
EVEN THE PASHAS WHO AREN'T VEZIRS...
ARE ALL WELL-KNOWN SUPPORTERS OF THE SULTANS.
THE BUYUK PASHA IS A SHREWD MAN.
I GUESS HE DOESN'T MIND IF NONE OF THEM RETURN.

Fasul 28 The Floodgate General

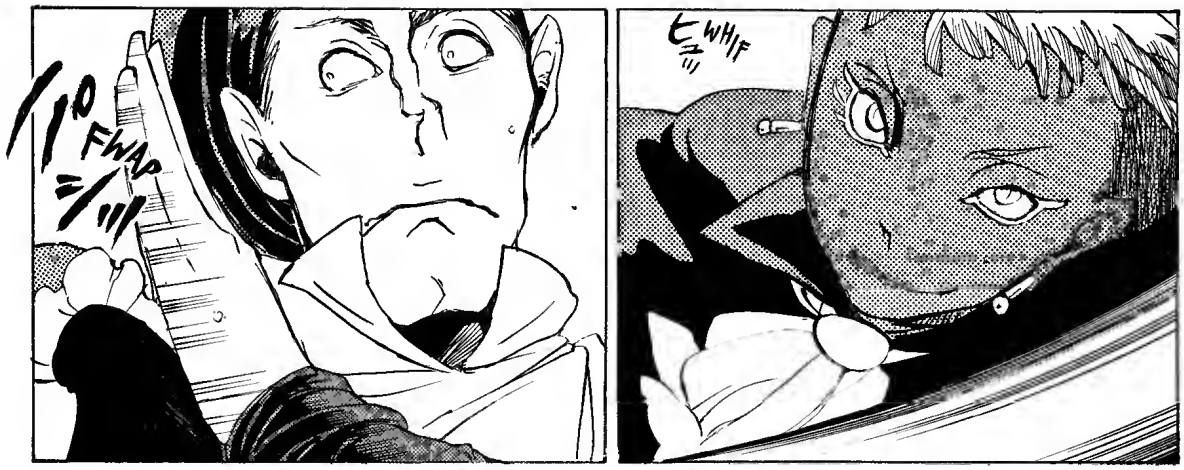
WOOOW!
KULUCH SULTANLU
OUTSKIRTS OF THE
CAPITAL OF MUCEHVER
Tughril Mahmut
TORQYE PASHALU
BINBASH
Shara
TORQYE PASHALU
LYRE ESNAF DANCER
THUD
I WAS WONDERING WHAT WAS UP WHEN YOU SENT THAT FISHY OLD MAN TO SUMMON ME...
...BUT I WASN'T EXPECTING SOMETHING THIS OUTRAGEOUS.

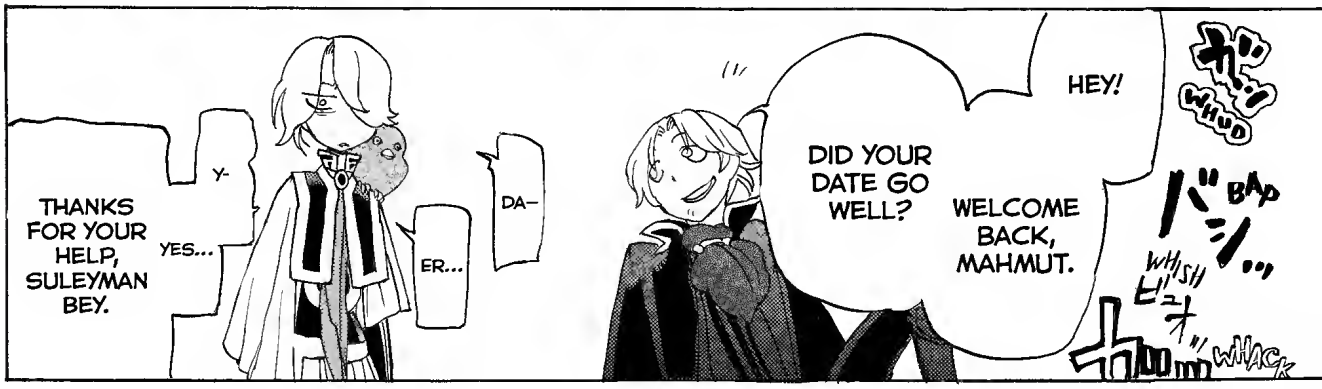
ばっさ
FLAP
SINCE TORQYE IS SPONSORING THE WHOLE THING,
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS.
ばっさ
FLAP
OH, WELL...


I WILL, THANK YOU...
Look forward to the show in three days!

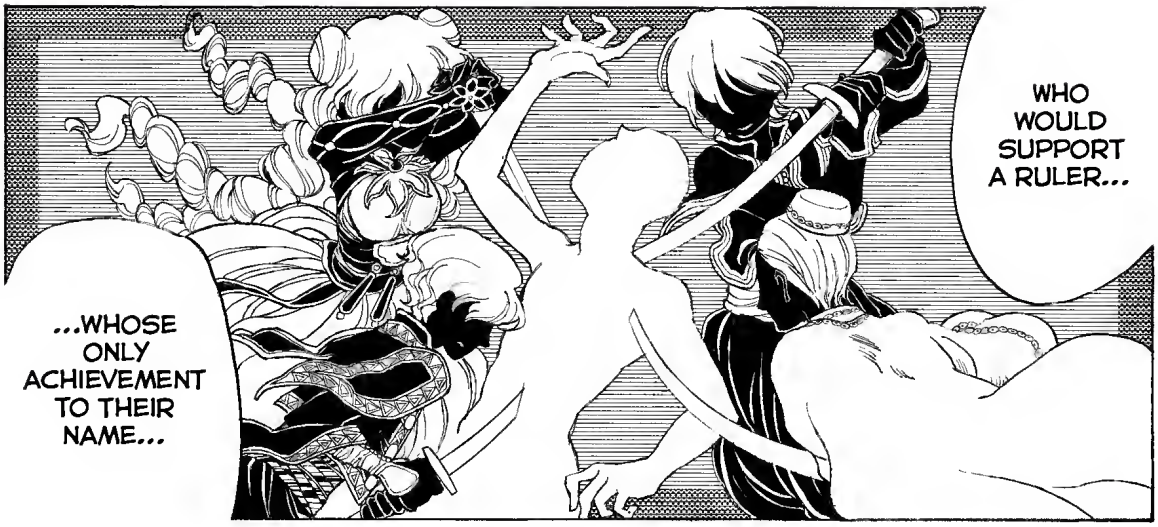

WHACK
SMAT
WHAP
KULUCH SULTANLU
CAPITAL OUTSKIRTS
PRENS ORHAN'S KIOSK

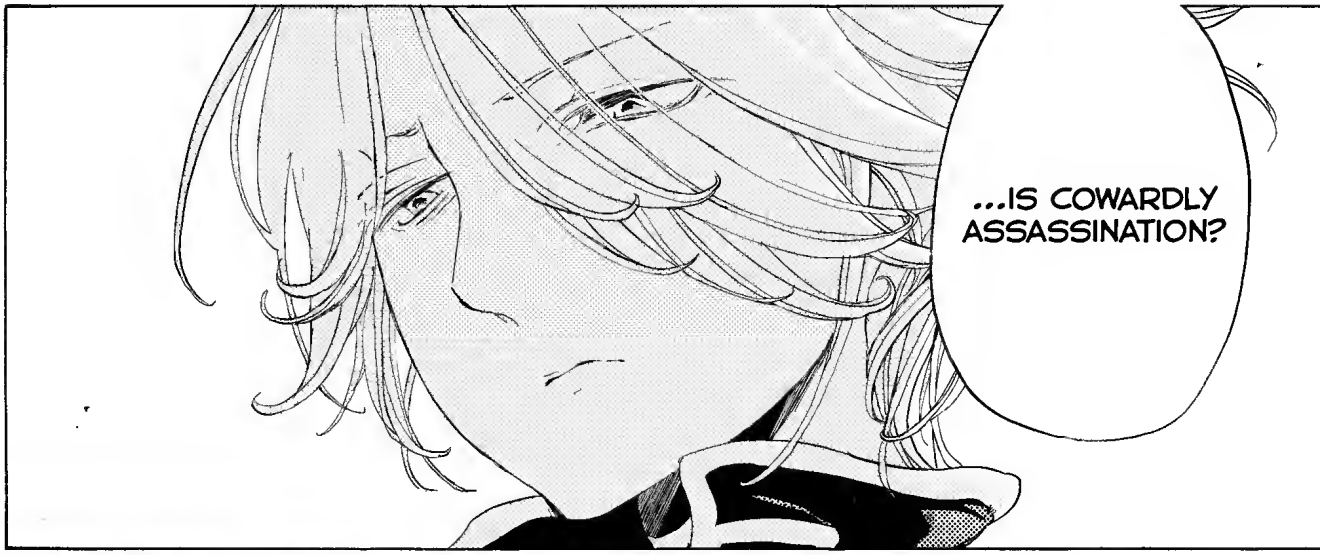
BAM

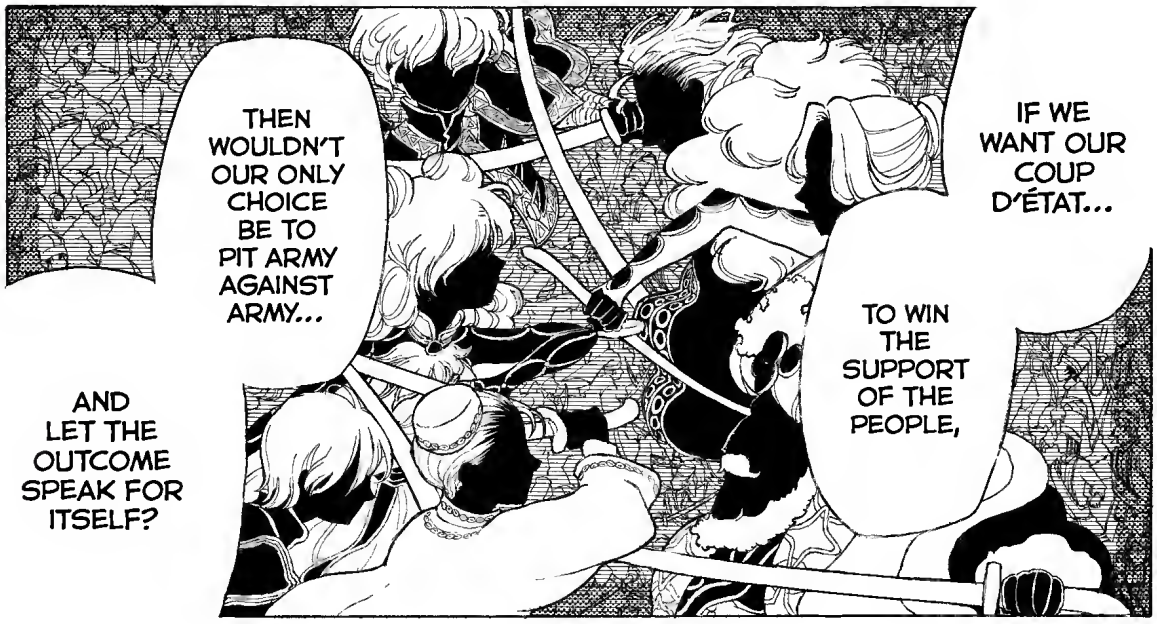

FWAP
WHIF


THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, SULEYMAN BEY.
Y-
YES...
ER...
DA-
DID YOUR DATE GO WELL?
HEY!
WELCOME BACK, MAHMUT.
WHUD
BAP
WHISH
WHAG

MAHMUT BEY!
FWIP
I FINISHED READING YOUR PLAN FOR THE CEREMONY!
Kurk-Beshinci Beyolu Ismail
BUCHAK SULTANLU
THE SULTAN'S SON
Beyolu Silahtar Beyazit
MUZRAK SULTANLU
THE SULTAN'S YOUNGER BROTHER
THE POSITIONING OF THE TROOPS, THE ARRANGEMENTS DAY-OF...
EVERYTHING IS TOP-NOTCH!
HOWEVER,
EVEN IF WE MANAGE TO ASSASSINATE ALL OF THE SULTANS QUICKLY AND CLEANLY,
CHAOS IS SURE TO FOLLOW.
YOU'RE AWARE OF THAT, AREN'T YOU, BEY?

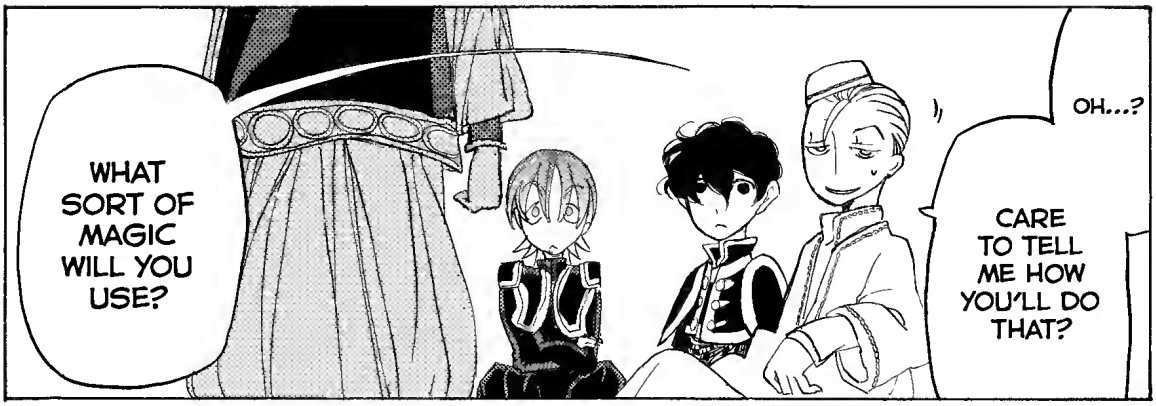

WHO WOULD SUPPORT A RULER...
...WHOSE ONLY ACHIEVEMENT TO THEIR NAME...

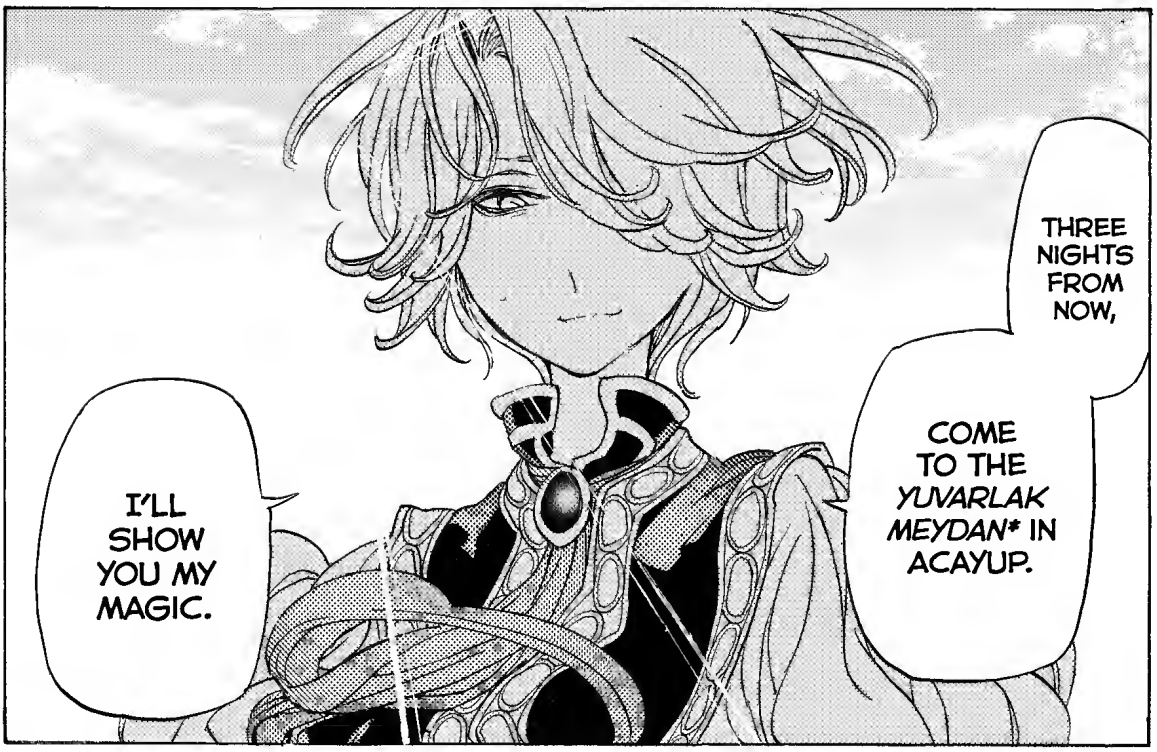

...IS COWARDLY ASSASSINATION?


IF WE WANT OUR COUP D'ÉTAT...
TO WIN THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE,
THEN WOULDN'T OUR ONLY CHOICE BE TO PIT ARMY AGAINST ARMY...
AND LET THE OUTCOME SPEAK FOR ITSELF?

THIS IS JUST A SUGGES-TION,
BUT SAY WE COULD FOREGO THE ASSASSINATION.
AFTER HE OPENLY DECLARES KULUCH'S ALLEGIANCE TO TORQYE,
WITH ORHAN AS THE NEW SULTAN,
WE COULD SLOWLY SOW THE SEEDS OF REBELLION IN THE REMAINING SULTANLUK.
I THINK THAT MAY BE A MORE EFFECTIVE METHOD.
FORTU-NATELY,
PEEK
WE HAVE AN ACE UP OUR SLEEVES THAT—
NO.

I DON'T INTEND TO START A CIVIL WAR.
I'LL SEE THAT THE PEOPLE ACCEPT YOUR CLAIM...
...WITHOUT THE NEED TO RESORT TO REBELLION.





*YUVARLAK MEYDAN: AMPHITHEATER. LITERALLY "ROUND PLAZA."

You are wrong, brother!
To think that the sultans of Toraye would be swayed by foreigners...
merely to satisfy their own ambitions!
Buchak cannot provide safe trade on its own!
You've let momentary greed cloud your judgment.

Whoever slays Beyolu Beyazit and prenses Aishe...
...shall be rewarded generously!
our lives may be in danger,
and we may still be alone in our plight,
but even so,
the sultans are wrong!

...we will continue to preach the truth!
For the sake of peace throughout Birlik Toraye...
Splendid!
As I'd expect from Altun's number one theater troupe!
Prens Orhan
KULUCH SULTANLU
THE SULTAN'S SON

It's a shame it ended there.
Wow!
That was great!
What a lovely play.
DON'T THE PRENSES AND HER UNCLE SEEM A LITTLE TOO CLOSE?
ALTHOUGH,
EVEN IF IT'S JUST A PLAY,
That was good!
yeah.

No matter how you look at it, the younger brother was in the right!
His brother's an idiot.
How much of that was true?
HOW IS THIS SUPPOSED TO ACHIEVE OUR REVOLUTION...?
BY THE WAY,
ESKI-PASHA
I felt bad for them.

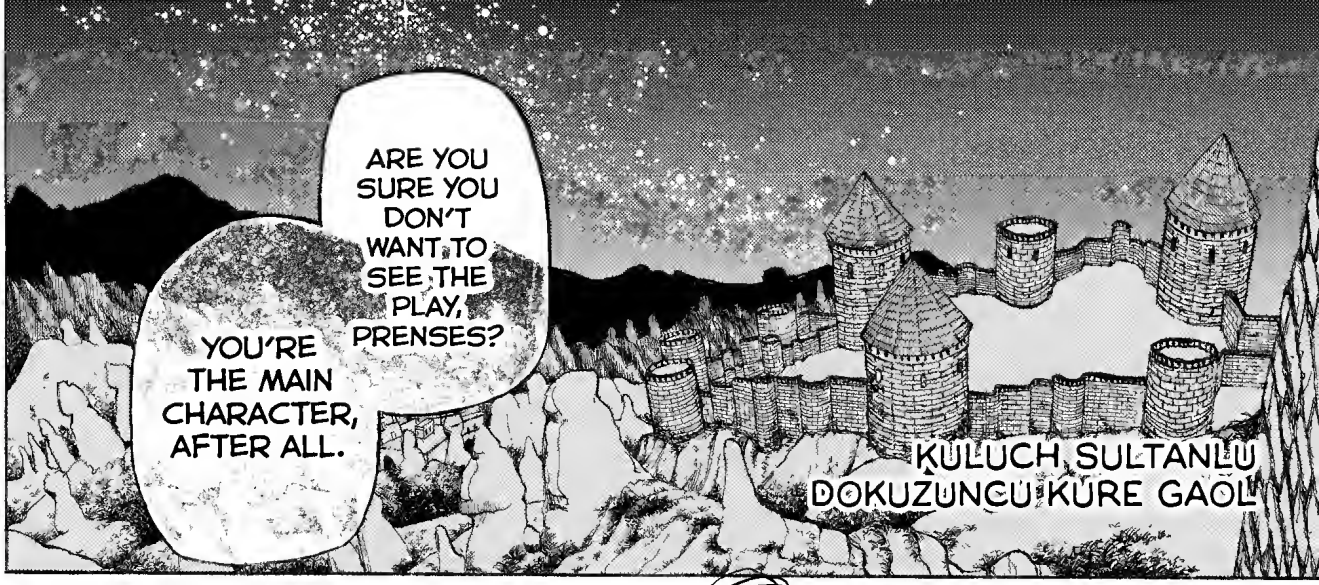
It scares me to think that a such a greedy sultan is ruling the country...
If that's true, then the sultans are bad news!
By foreigners, did they mean the Empire?
!

I SEE...
WHEN GIVEN THE CLEAR CHOICE BETWEEN GOOD AND BAD MERCHANDISE,
PEOPLE WILL OBVIOUSLY PICK THE BETTER OPTION.
THOUGH IT MIGHT BE EFFECTIVE,
YOU REALIZE THIS IS SEDITION, RIGHT?
LYRE ESNAF PULLS IN THE LARGEST AUDIENCE OF ANY TROUPE IN TORQYE.
WE CAN EXPECT RESULTS.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO MY OUTRAGEOUS REQUEST.
THAT WAS A WONDERFUL SHOW, PROPRIETRESS.
OUR PLEASURE.
MY GIRLS WENT THROUGH HELL THE LAST THREE DAYS TO GET THIS READY,
BUT IT WAS A GOOD EXPERIENCE.
I PROMISE ORQUESTA WILL KEEP YOUR TROUPE SAFE.
THANK YOU.
WE'LL TAKE THIS PLAY...
AND MAKE REGIME CHANGE A HIT ACROSS THE DERT SULTANLUK!
JUST LEAVE IT TO US!

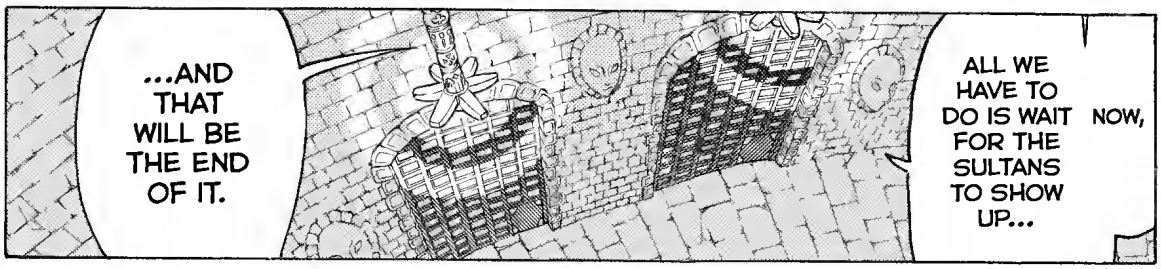
EVEN IF FIGHTING BREAKS OUT,
AND I HAPPEN TO FALL...
...PLEASE KEEP PERFORMING FOR ANOTHER HALF A YEAR.
DON'T EVEN START WITH THAT.
JUST TRY YOUR BEST AND DON'T DIE.
IT WAS NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
I'M SEEING AN UN-EXPECTED SIDE OF YOU.
I GOTTA SAY,
I THOUGHT YOU'D HATE THE IDEA...
...OF DUMBING DOWN POLITICS...
...TO BE PERFORMED FOR THE MASSES.

...OF ENDING THIS BEFORE THE EMPIRE HAS TIME TO REACT.
THAT IS OUR BEST HOPE...
EVEN IF THEY RISE TO POWER THROUGH FOUL PLAY.
NOW THEY CAN WIN OVER THE PEOPLE...
...MEANT TO RAISE SUPPORT FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF SULTANS.
THAT WAS JUST A SPECTA-CLE...
NOT AT ALL.


ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE THE PLAY, PRENSES?
YOU'RE THE MAIN CHARACTER, AFTER ALL.
KULUCH SULTANLU
DOKUZUNCU KURE GAOL

TRUE ENOUGH.

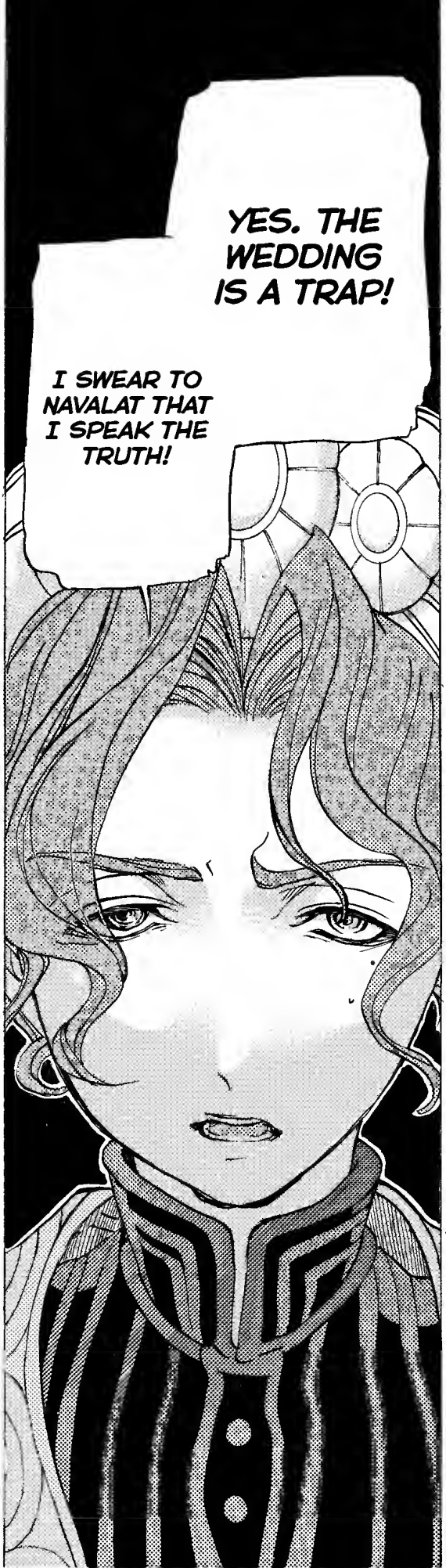
SINCE IT'S ABOUT ME,
I ALREADY KNOW THE STORY.
Prenses Armut Aishe
BALTA SULTANLU
THE SULTANA'S DAUGHTER


...AND THAT WILL BE THE END OF IT.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WAIT FOR THE SULTANS TO SHOW UP...
NOW,

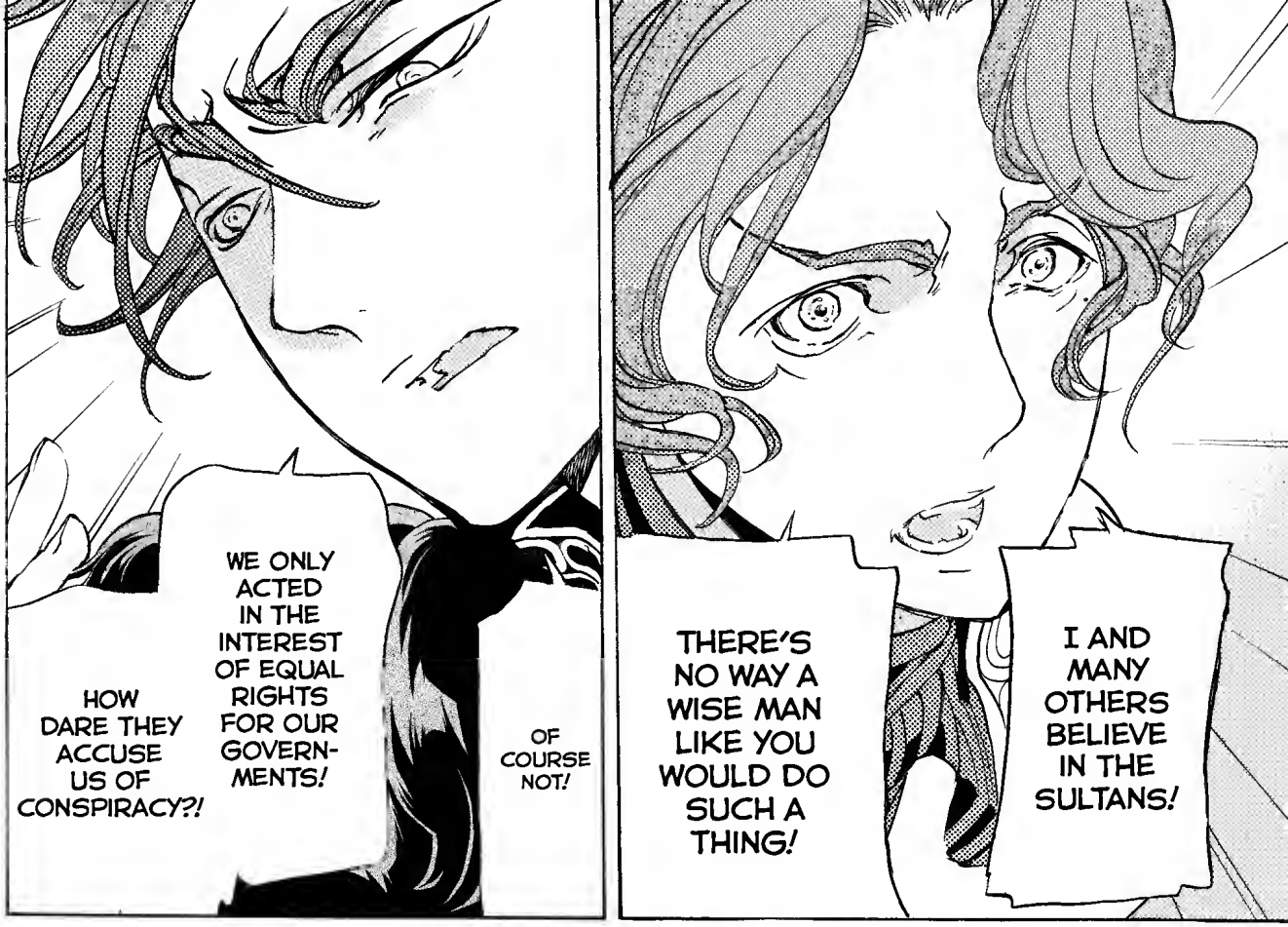
AFTER THAT, WE CAN SLOWLY TIGHTEN THE NOOSE AROUND THE OTHERS.
KULUCH WILL MERELY SWITCH SIDES TO TORQYE.
EVEN IF THEY DON'T COME,

I DARESAY MY WRATHFUL UNCLE BALABAN WON'T STAY SILENT ABOUT THIS.
HOWEVER,

IS WHAT YOU SAY TRUE, SALUJA PASHA?
MUZRAK SULTANLU
CAPITAL OF SHARK
AL-SARAY


YES. THE WEDDING IS A TRAP!
I SWEAR TO NAVALAT THAT I SPEAK THE TRUTH!

RIGHT NOW, THE PASHAS OF TORQYE...
...ARE CONSUMED WITH THE SUSPICION THAT THE DERT SULTANLUK ARE CONSPIRING WITH THE EMPIRE.
HOW-EVER,
NOT EVERYONE SHARES THAT SENTIMENT!
Al-Kaplan Balaban
MUZRAK SULTANLU
3RD SULTAN


I AND MANY OTHERS BELIEVE IN THE SULTANS!
THERE'S NO WAY A WISE MAN LIKE YOU WOULD DO SUCH A THING!
OF COURSE NOT!
WE ONLY ACTED IN THE INTEREST OF EQUAL RIGHTS FOR OUR GOVERNMENTS!
HOW DARE THEY ACCUSE US OF CONSPIRACY?!

I BEG OF YOU,
LEAVE THIS MATTER TO ME, TESISAT-KAPU SALUJA!
I PROM-ISE...
I WILL CALL FOR ANOTHER MEETING OF THE BIRLIK TORQYE DIVAN!

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME THIS INFORMATION, SALUJA PASHA.
PAT
ぽん
BECAUSE OF YOU, WE CAN AVOID TAKING FOOLISH ACTION...
THAT WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN FRATRICIDE.

I WILL TAKE 10,000 OF MY YENICHERI,
TO PROVIDE AMPLE PROTECTION DURING THE CEREMONY.
I WON'T LET THE BLOOD-THIRSTY MINORITY OF TORQYE...
...GET IN THE WAY OF SELIM'S SON'S WEDDING.
YES!
I JUST KNEW YOU WOULD SAY THAT, SULTAN!
TO-GETHER,
LET US REBUILD BIRLIK TORQYE, SALUJA PASHA!

TORQYE IS POWERLESS TO INTERVENE.
CLACK
WITH OUR THREE ARMIES COMBINED,
WE WILL CRUSH THE KULUCH SULTANLU!
AFTER ALL, THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH OF COWARDS,
TOO SCARED OF THE EMPIRE TO DO MORE THAN SEND SPIES TO DO THEIR DIRTY WORK.
THANK YOU.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, SULTAN.
YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM YOUR JOURNEY.
REST WELL TODAY.
THUD
SEND A MESSENGER...
...TO BALTA AND BUCHAK IMMEDIATELY.

GENTLE-MEN!
WE CANNOT LET THIS OPPORTUNITY GO TO WASTE!
...AND OCCUPY THE MAJOR CITIES OF MUZRAK, BALTA, AND BUCHAK!
WE WILL DEPLOY TORQYE'S FORCES...
WHILE THE SULTANS ARE AWAY.

TORQYE PASHALU
KUBBE ALTU

IT SEEMS SALUJA PASHA PASSED BY BALTA...
AND HEADED STRAIGHT FOR MUZRAK.

HE WILL LEAVE HIS COUNTRY VACANT AND ATTACK KULUCH.
YES.
SALUJA PASHA'S RECKLESS ACTIONS WILL LIKE-LY FORCE BALABAN TO MOVE.
GOOD.

...TO AVOID MAKING ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE!
THE PLAN WAS TO SECRETLY INCITE UNREST WITHIN THE DERT SULTANLUK...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, ZAGANOS PASHA?!
THIS ISN'T WHAT WE AGREED ON!

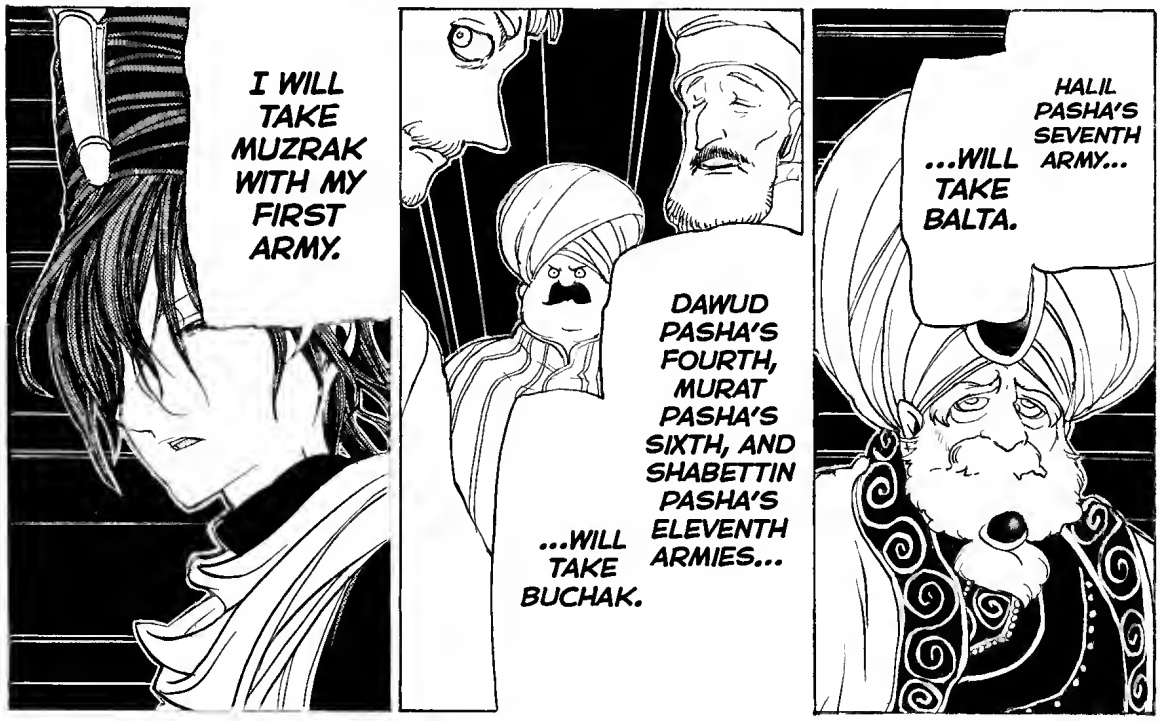
WE CAN SOLVE EVERYTHING RIGHT NOW...
...IF WE TAKE THEIR STRONG-HOLDS.
THE SITUATION IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING.

AN ARMY WITH NO PLACE TO RETURN AND ITS SUPPLIES CUT OFF IS NOTHING TO FEAR.
NO MATTER HOW NUMEROUS ITS SOLDIERS,

AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY HAS PRESENTED ITSELF TO US!
A MONARCHY WITHOUT ITS MONARCH...
IS RIPE FOR THE TAKING.

AT THIS STAGE,
I DARESAY A VOTE ISN'T NECESSARY.
VERY WELL.
ZAGANOS PASHA IS HEREBY GIVEN COMMAND OVER ALL TROOPS.
ALL RIGHT.

Balt-Rhein Empire
Hisar
Toraye Pashalu
THE ARMIES OF THE SECOND, THIRD, FIFTH, EIGHTH, TENTH, AND TWELFTH EYALETS...
ARE TO ASSEMBLE ALONG THE IMPERIAL BORDER!
REMAIN ON ALERT FOR AN IMPERIAL INVASION!


HALIL PASHA'S SEVENTH ARMY...
...WILL TAKE BALTA.
DAWUD PASHA'S FOURTH, MURAT PASHA'S SIXTH, AND SHABETTIN PASHA'S ELEVENTH ARMIES...
...WILL TAKE BUCHAK.
I WILL TAKE MUZRAK WITH MY FIRST ARMY.

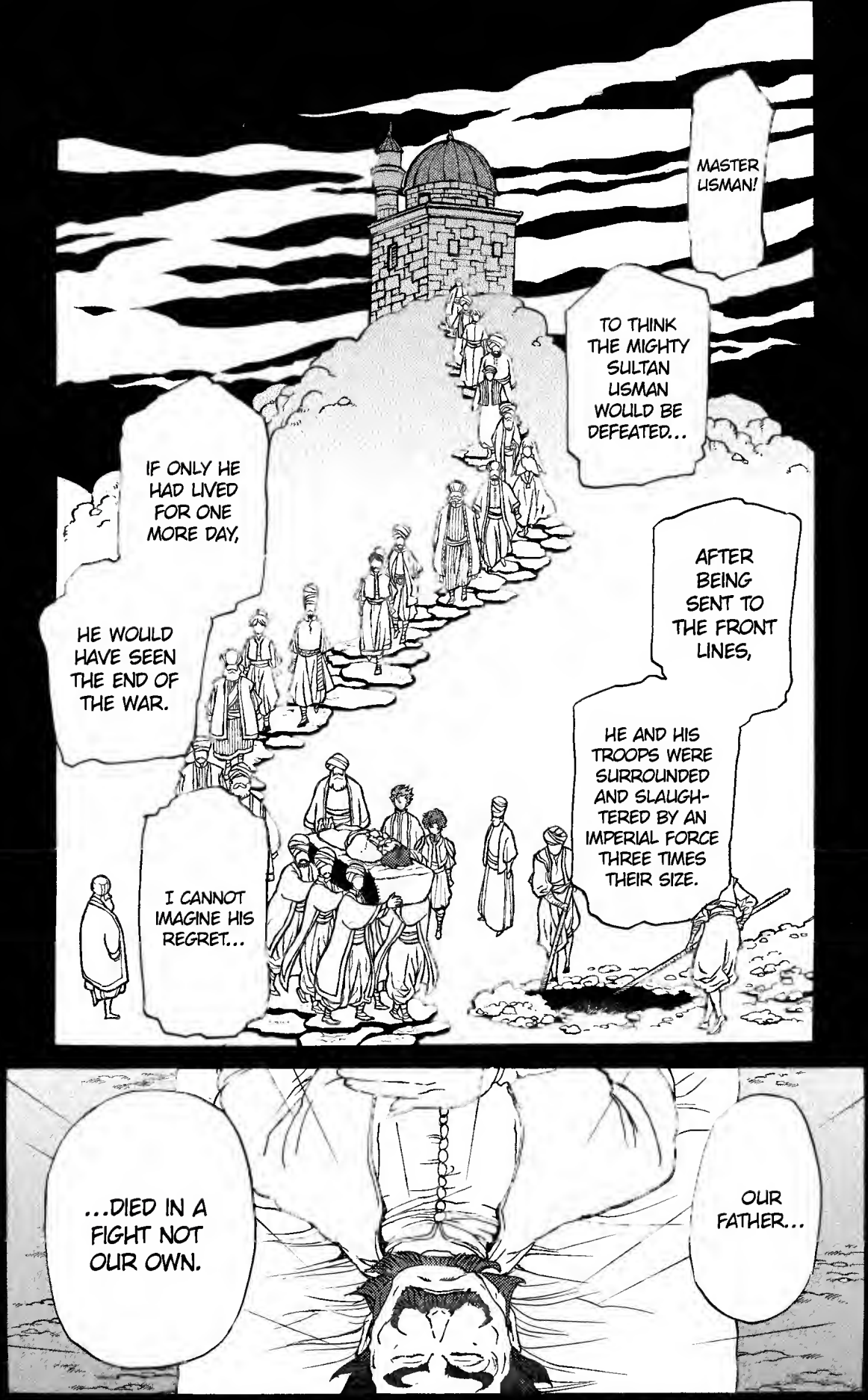
...WITHIN FIVE DAYS.
THE CITIES MUST BE TAKEN...
ALL PASHAS ARE TO MARCH ON THEIR ASSIGN-MENTS.
AS SOON AS THE THREE SULTANLUK'S ARMIES ARRIVE IN KULUCH'S CAPITAL, ACAYUP,
Acayup
Mucehver
Sultanluk Armies
Torayeli Army
IT TAKES FIVE DAYS TO REACH MUCEHVER, THE NEAREST CITY.
DURING THAT PRECIOUS WINDOW OF TIME...
EVEN IF THE SULTANS CATCH WIND OF OUR DEPLOYMENT,
AND RUSH BACK FROM ACAYUP,
SKF
SKF
SKF
SKF

...WE'LL SOLVE THIS DEBACLE...
...WITH AS FEW SACRIFICES AS POSSIBLE!

I WON'T GIVE THE EMPIRE TIME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS.

ぱか
clop
ぱか
clop
ぱか
clop
ぱか
clop
NEAR THE
BUCHAK-KULUCH BORDER
MOTHER!
UNCLE!
ぱか
clop
I'M GOING TO LOOK AT BUCHAK'S SOLDIERS!
ぱか
clop
I SAY, FATMA.
YOU HAVE A SMART BOY THERE.
ALL I HAVE IS A FOOLISH LITTLE BROTHER...

Fasul 29 The Pear Princess


MASTER USMAN!
TO THINK THE MIGHTY SULTAN USMAN WOULD BE DEFEATED...
IF ONLY HE HAD LIVED FOR ONE MORE DAY,
HE WOULD HAVE SEEN THE END OF THE WAR.
AFTER BEING SENT TO THE FRONT LINES,
HE AND HIS TROOPS WERE SURROUNDED AND SLAUGHTERED BY AN IMPERIAL FORCE THREE TIMES THEIR SIZE.
I CANNOT IMAGINE HIS REGRET...
...DIED IN A FIGHT NOT OUR OWN.
OUR FATHER...

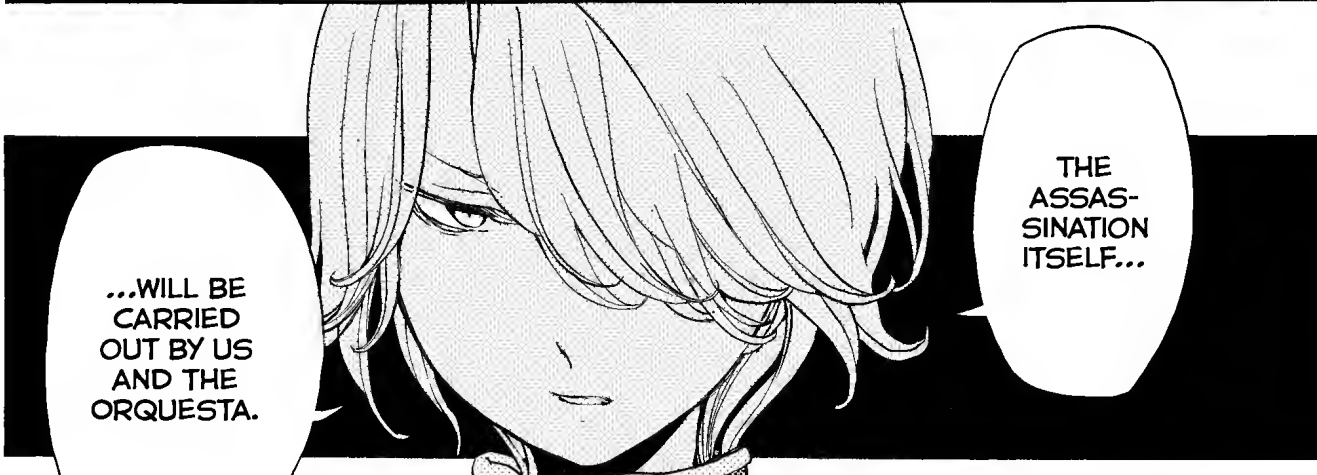
THOUGH WE CALL OURSELVES A SULTANLU,
OUR PEOPLE...
...AREN'T GIVEN ANY CHOICE...
...IN WHETHER OR NOT THEY FIGHT.
WE'RE GOING TO MAKE MUZRAK STRONGER, BEYAZIT.
OTHERWISE, OUR PEOPLE...
WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN PATH!

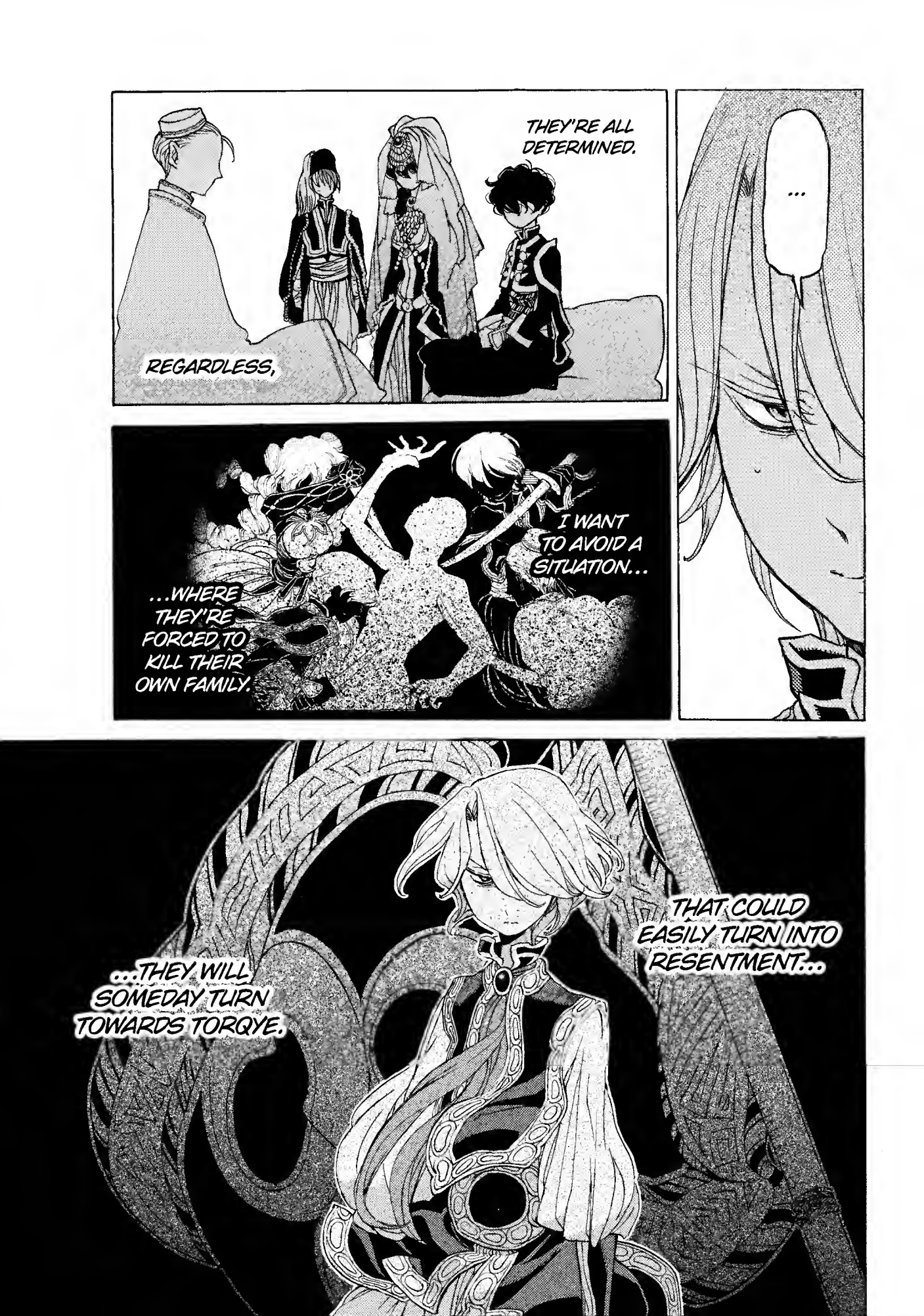
KULUCH SULTANLU
CAPITAL OF ACAYUP
ORHAN'S KIOSK
...
Err...
Aah...
Ah...
WAAAH..
YOU MAKE A LOVELY BRIDE.
HOW DOES THE DRESS FIT?
SHH
PERFECTLY, BUT I MUST SAY...
BRIDAL GOWNS CERTAINLY ARE HEAVY.

THE NIKAH...
...WILL BE HELD IN THE CHIVIT-SARAY'S INDIGO HALL.
Tughril Mahmut
TORQYE PASHALU
BINBASH

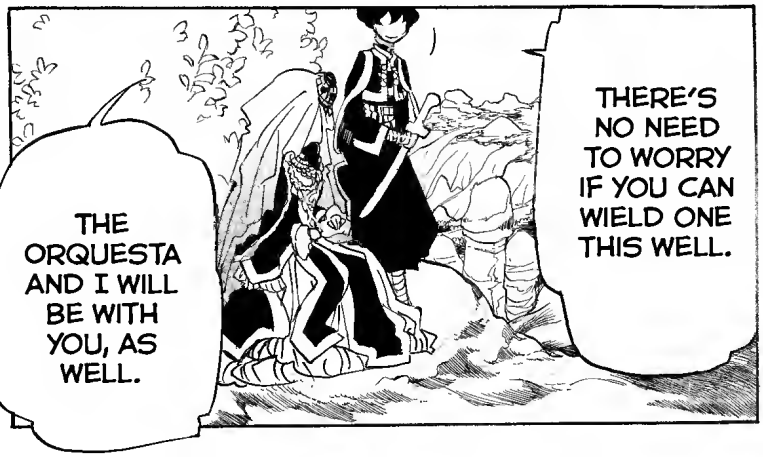
Kara-Kanat Suleyman
TORQYE PASHALU
GOZ-KULAK BASHKAN
Yuz-Maske Selim
KULUCH SULTANLU
2ND SULTAN
THE THREE OF US,
ALONG WITH BEYOLU BEYAZIT, BEYOLU ISMAIL, AS WELL AS 100 ORQUESTA DISGUISED AS GUARDS WILL BE POSTED THERE.
THE GROOM WILL SIT AT THE BACK OF THE HALL,
WITH SULTAN SELIM SEATED NEXT TO HIM.
TO THEIR LEFT AND RIGHT...
...WILL SIT THE SULTANS OF MUZRAK, BALTA, AND BUCHAK, AS WELL AS AN AMBASSADOR FROM TORQYE.
AND LASTLY, AS FOR THE BRIDE'S ENTRANCE,
Kiros
PHOINIKE KULAK
Abiriga
VENEDIK PRIVATE ARMY CAPTAIN

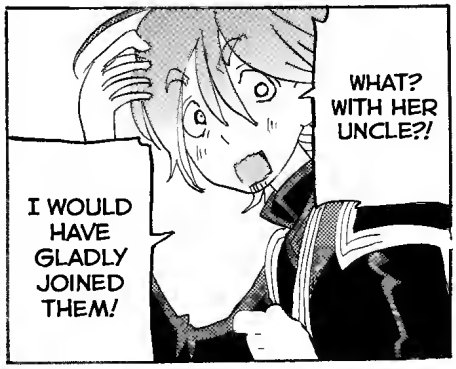
THE MOMENT PRENSES AISHE STEPS FOOT INTO THE HALL,
Prenses Armut Aishe
BALTA SULTANLU
THE SULTANA'S DAUGHTER
Prens Orhan
KULUCH SULTANLU
THE SULTAN'S SON
THAT WILL ACT AS THE SIGNAL TO ASSASSINATE THE SULTANS.
Kurk-Beshinci Beyolu Ismail
BUCHAK SULTANLU
THE SULTAN'S SON
Beyolu Silahtar Beyazit
MUZRAK SULTANLU
THE SULTAN'S YOUNGER BROTHER


THE ASSAS-SINATION ITSELF...
...WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY US AND THE ORQUESTA.

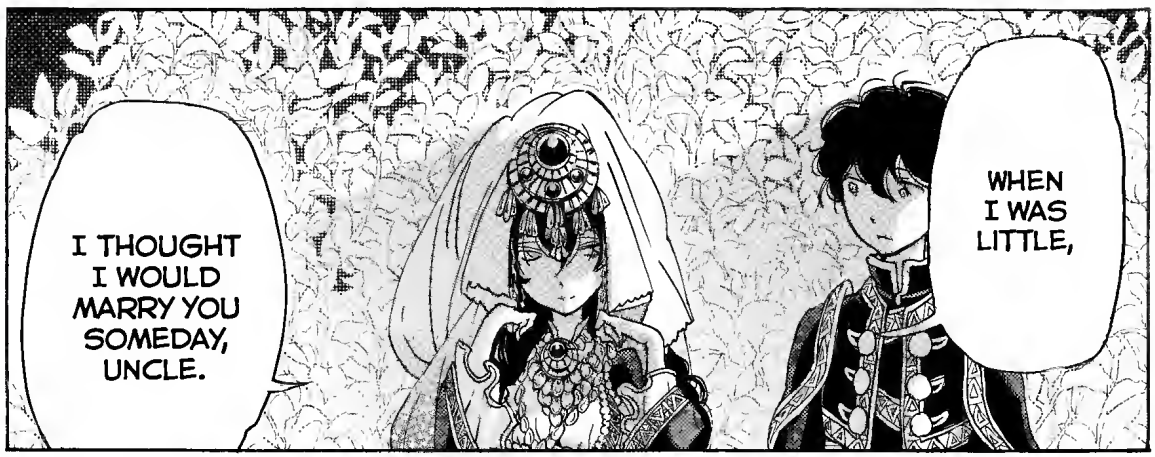

THEY'RE ALL DETERMINED.
REGARDLESS,
...
I WANT TO AVOID A SITUATION...
...WHERE THEY'RE FORCED TO KILL THEIR OWN FAMILY.
THAT COULD EASILY TURN INTO RESENTMENT...
...THEY WILL SOMEDAY TURN TOWARDS TORQYE.

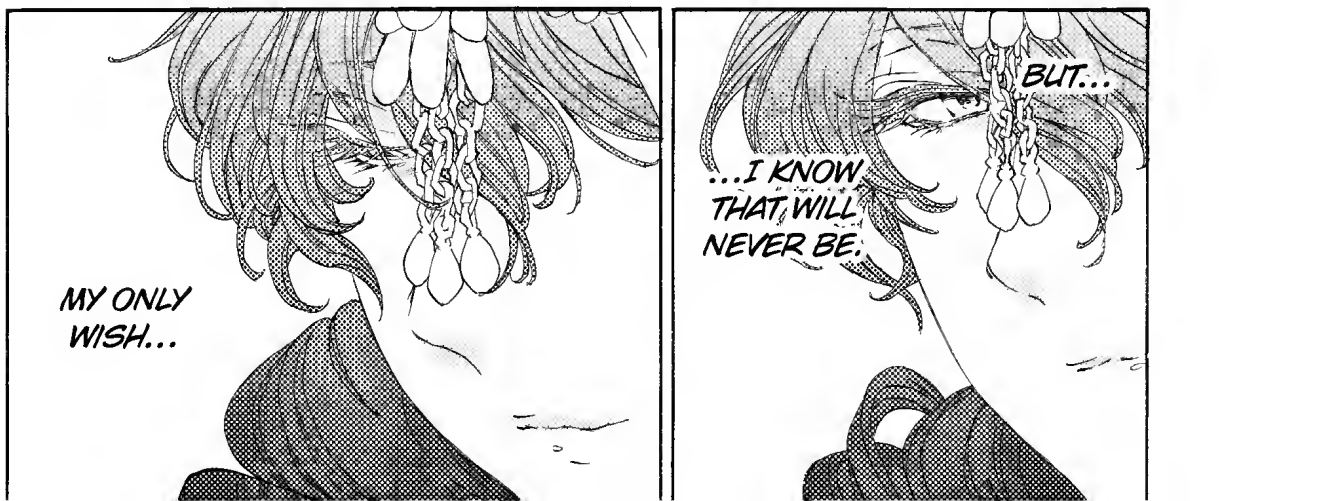
HOWEVER, JUST FOR GOOD MEASURE,
I'D LIKE EVERYONE TO ARM THEMSELVES WITH A SWORD...
...ON THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY.
I'LL HELP YOU, PRENS-ES.
SWIF
ESH
WHAT SAY WE PRACTICE OUT BACK?
THESE CLOTHES MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO RAISE MY ARMS.
I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD USE ONE...


THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY IF YOU CAN WIELD ONE THIS WELL.
THE ORQUESTA AND I WILL BE WITH YOU, AS WELL.


WHAT? WITH HER UNCLE?!
I WOULD HAVE GLADLY JOINED THEM!

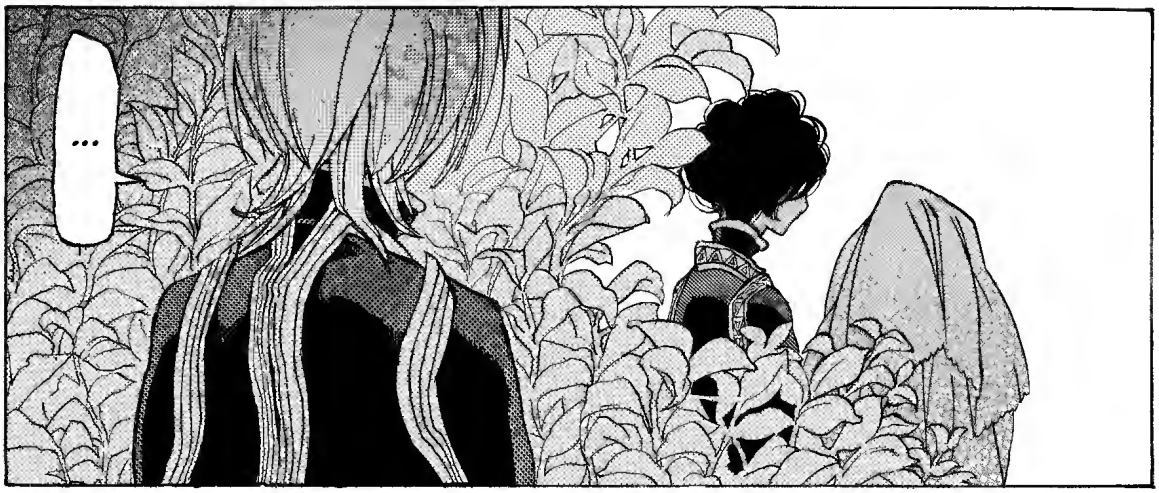
THE DRESS LOOKS LOVELY ON YOU.
THOUGH I MUST SAY, I NEVER IMAGINED YOU'D GET MARRIED THIS SOON, PRENSES.
THE TRUTH IS, UNCLE,
NEITHER DID I.


WHEN I WAS LITTLE,
I THOUGHT I WOULD MARRY YOU SOMEDAY, UNCLE.


BUT...
...I KNOW THAT WILL NEVER BE.
MY ONLY WISH...

WILL YOU PAT MY HEAD ONE LAST TIME?
I ALWAYS LOVED IT WHEN YOU USED TO.
I'LL BE A WEDDED WOMAN TOMORROW.
EVEN BETWEEN AN UNCLE AND NIECE,
SUCH FORMS OF AFFECTION WON'T BE PERMITTED ANYMORE ONCE THE CEREMONY ENDS.
...IS THAT YOU'LL LIVE HAPPILY...
...FOR YEARS TO COME...

BACK THEN,
I, TOO, THOUGHT...
...I WOULD MARRY YOU SOMEDAY.
PRENSES AISHE...
...AND SMILE WHENEVER WE MEET, UNCLE.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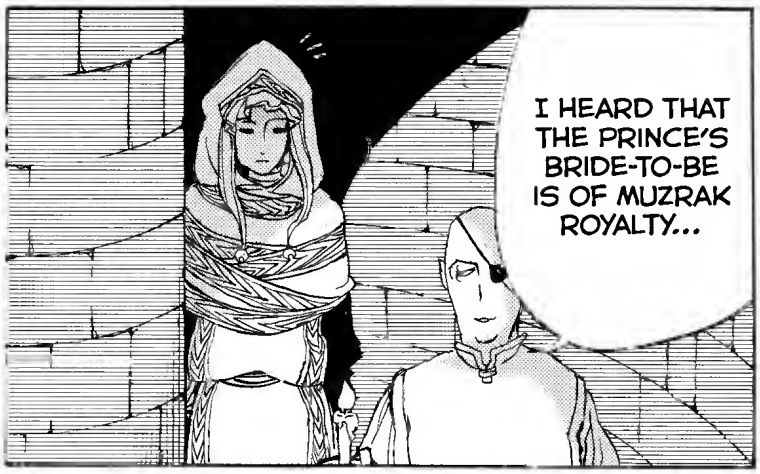
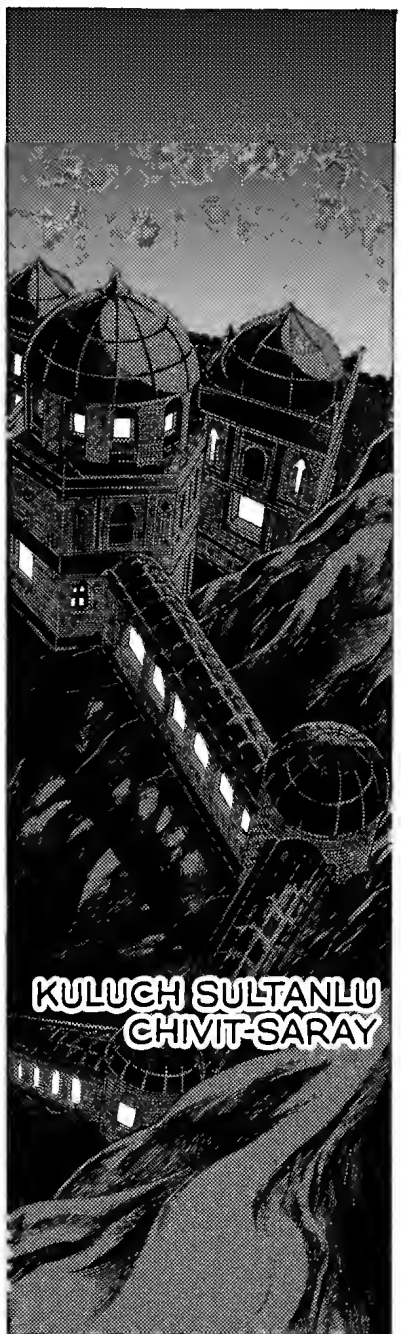
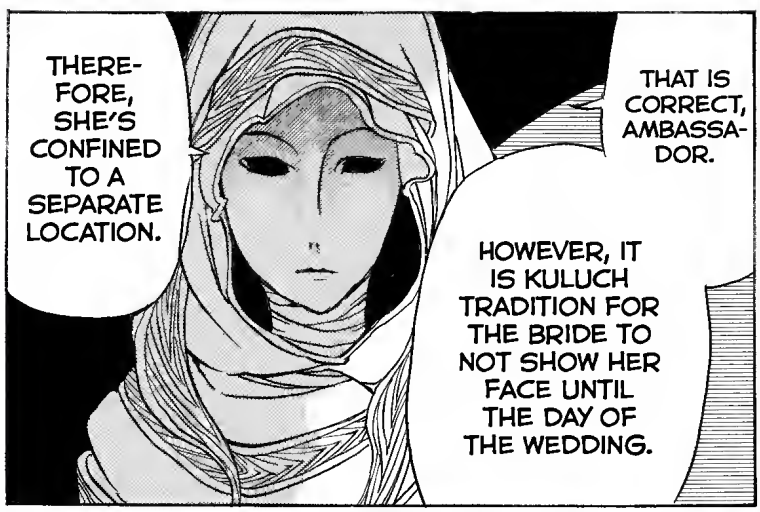

I HEARD THAT THE PRINCE'S BRIDE-TO-BE IS OF MUZRAK ROYALTY...


KULUCH SULTANLU
CHIVIT-SARAY


THERE-FORE, SHE'S CONFINED TO A SEPARATE LOCATION.
THAT IS CORRECT, AMBASSA-DOR.
HOWEVER, IT IS KULUCH TRADITION FOR THE BRIDE TO NOT SHOW HER FACE UNTIL THE DAY OF THE WEDDING.

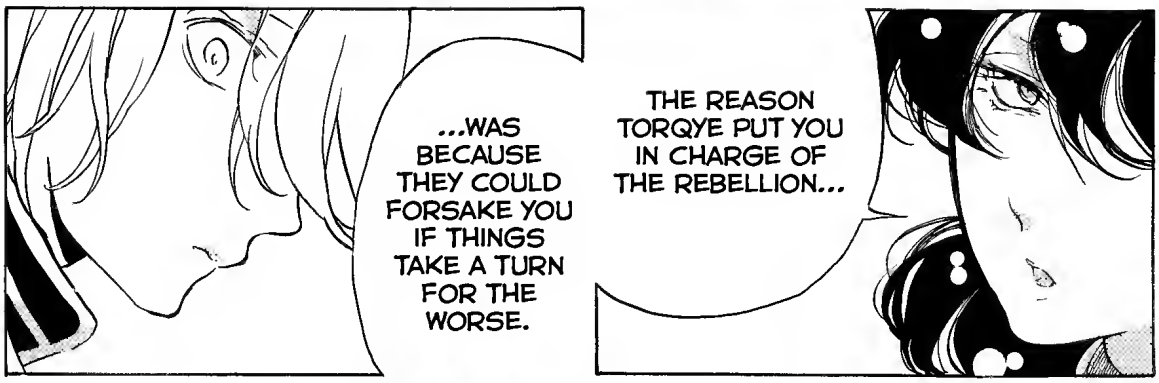
I LOOK FORWARD TO THE CEREMONY.
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE IS.

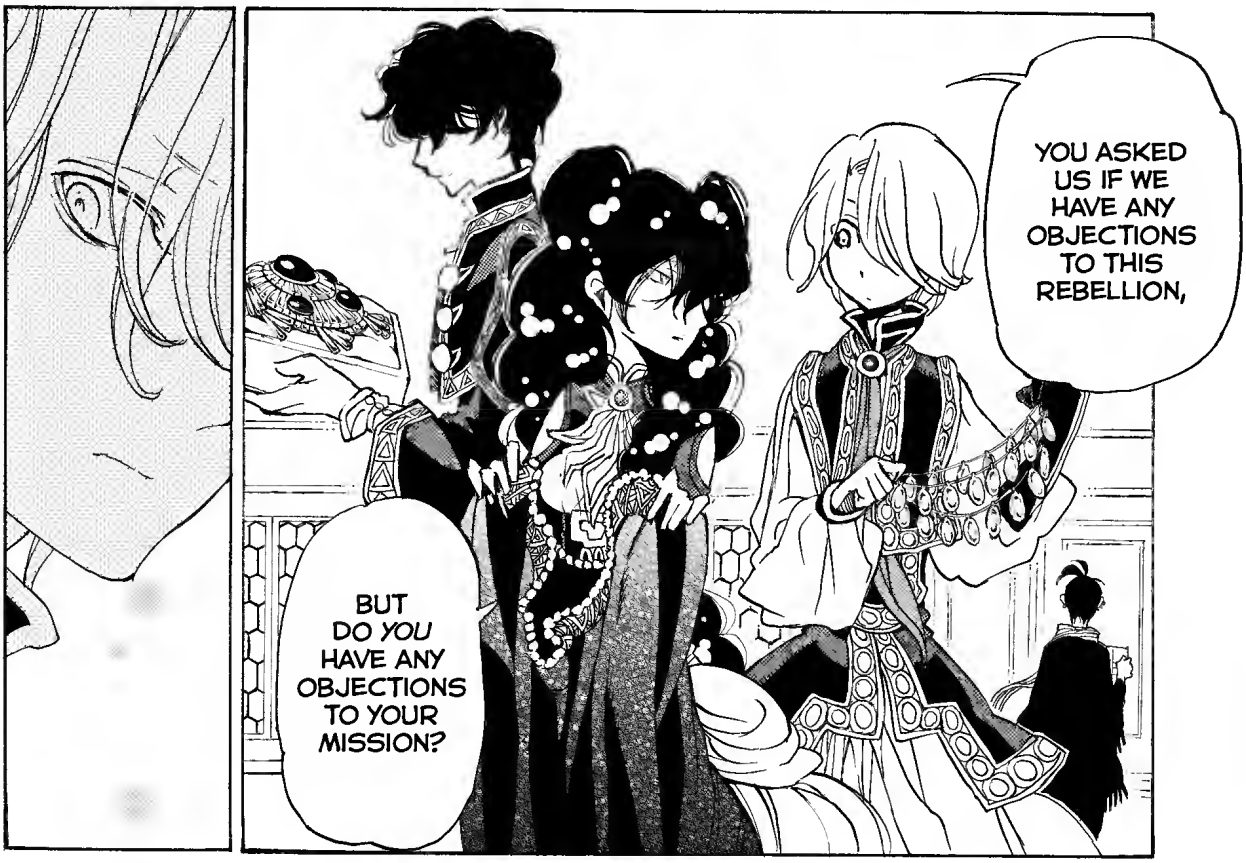
!
GL
...
PRENS...
...
MY APOLOGIES, AMBASSADOR.
WILL YOU EXCUSE ME FOR TODAY?
OF COURSE.
I'M SURE THE GROOM HAS A LOT ON HIS MIND...

PRENS...
WERE YOU NOT AWARE OF THE PRINCESS' FEELINGS UNTIL NOW?
PLIP
PLIP
UUH...
...
HIC...
PLIP
...
I...
RUB
I DON'T KNOW...
WHAT I SHOULD DO.
...WILL MAKE PRENSES AISHE HAPPY.
MARRYING ME...
ISN'T WHAT...
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PRENS,
PRENSES AISHE IS A FINE PRINCESS.

WHEN THOSE PATHS DIVERGE,
PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS TEMPTED TO TAKE THE FORMER.
THE PATH WE DESIRE MOST,
AND THE PATH WE OBJECTIVELY KNOW IS BEST.
I CANNOT SAY IF THE PRINCESS WILL COME TO LOVE YOU, PRENS.
ALL YOU CAN DO...
...IS BECOME A DECISIVE SULTAN...
...WHO WON'T BRING SHAME TO THE PRINCESS.
...
HGH...
...
...YES.

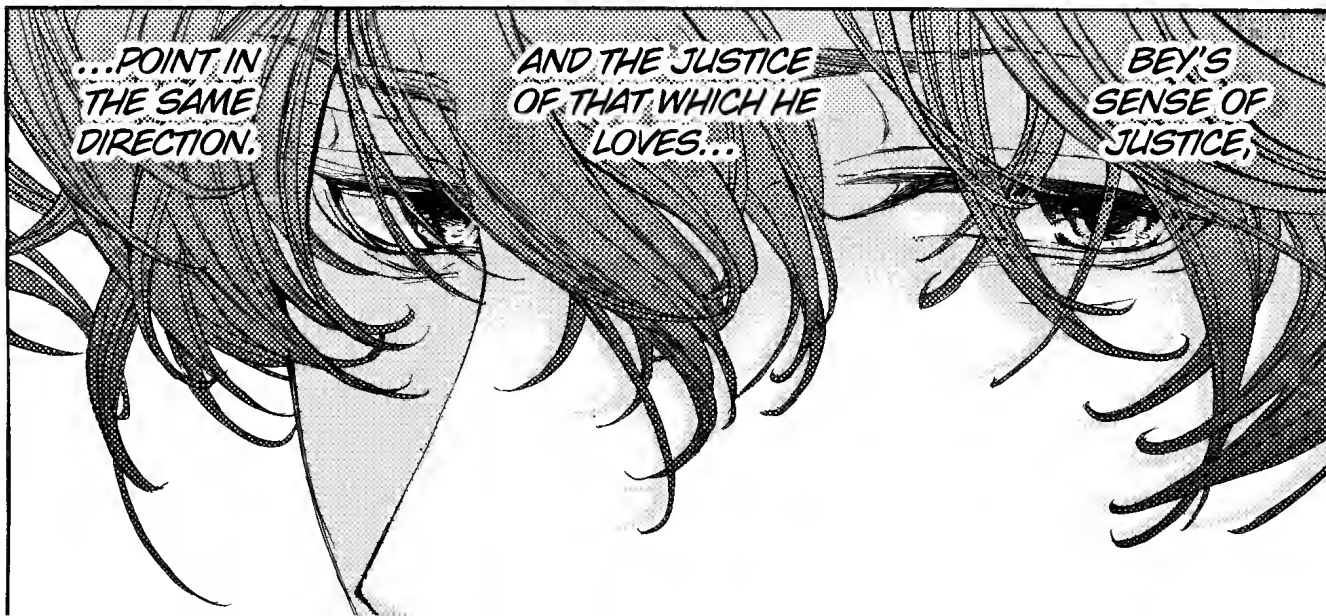
TUGHRIL MAHMUT ESKI-PASHA.


...WAS BECAUSE THEY COULD FORSAKE YOU IF THINGS TAKE A TURN FOR THE WORSE.
THE REASON TORQYE PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF THE REBELLION...


YOU ASKED US IF WE HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS TO THIS REBELLION,
BUT DO *YOU* HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS TO YOUR MISSION?

IF ABANDONING ME WILL AVOID THE WORST POSSIBLE SITUATION,
THEN I DON'T MIND IF I DIE.
TORQYE...
...GRANTED ME THE POWER...
TO DO WHAT I WANTED TO MOST.

I ENVY HIM...

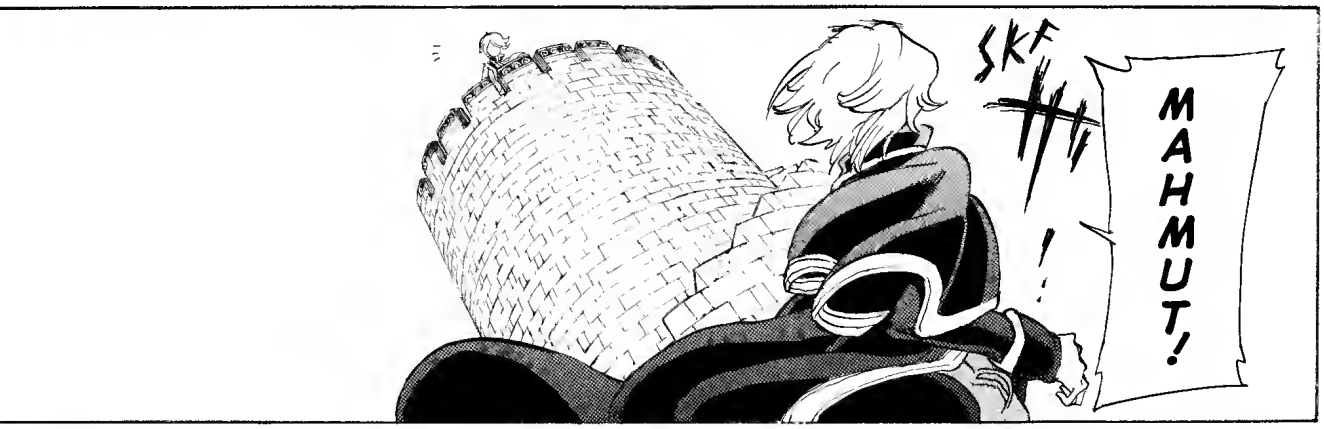

BEY'S SENSE OF JUSTICE,
AND THE JUSTICE OF THAT WHICH HE LOVES...
...POINT IN THE SAME DIRECTION.

YOU WANT TO FORM AN ECONOMIC UNION WITH THE EMPIRE AND CONNECT OUR COUNTRIES WITH A ROAD?
BROTHER...
YOU MUSTN'T LISTEN TO THE EMPIRE'S HONEYED WORDS!
TORQYE WILL NOT SIT BY AND LET THIS HAPPEN!
BEYAZIT.
IS MUZRAK NOT A SINGLE SOVEREIGN NATION?
WHY DO WE NEED TORQYE'S PERMISSION TO FORM ALLIANCES?
EVER SINCE THAT DAY,
MY BROTHER WAS DIFFERENT.

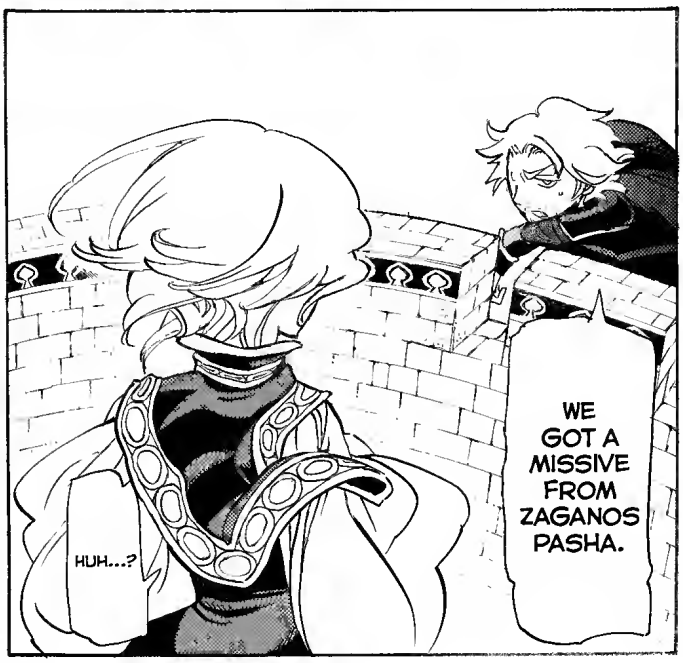
I SEE.
SO, YOU FAILED TO CONFINE YOUR MOTHER...
AND FLED TO THIS TEMPLE, DID YOU?
IN ANY CASE,
YOU WERE RIGHT TO SEEK REFUGE HERE.
THE HIGH PRIEST...
...SAVED US FROM CERTAIN EXECUTION, AS WELL.
THE CAPITAL OF SHARK IS IN A DREADFUL STATE RIGHT NOW.
THE SULTAN EXECUTES ANYONE WHO DISOBEYS HIM.
THE ONLY ONES WHO DARE APPROACH HIM ARE HIS SWORN YENICHERI AND THE MINISTERS WHO WISH TO WIN HIS FAVOR.
BAM
BAM
BAM
JOLT

SILAHTAR BEYAZIT!
THIS IS A WARNING FROM THE SULTAN!
TURN OVER PRENSES AISHE TO THE PALACE IMMEDIATELY!
OTHERWISE, YOU WILL BE EXECUTED FOR TREASON!
YOU HAVE UNTIL THE SULTAN ARRIVES IN LIMAN TO PREPARE AN ANSWER!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BROTHER...
IF IT WERE POSSIBLE,
I WOULD HAVE RATHER WALKED BESIDE YOU UNTIL THE DAY I DIED.

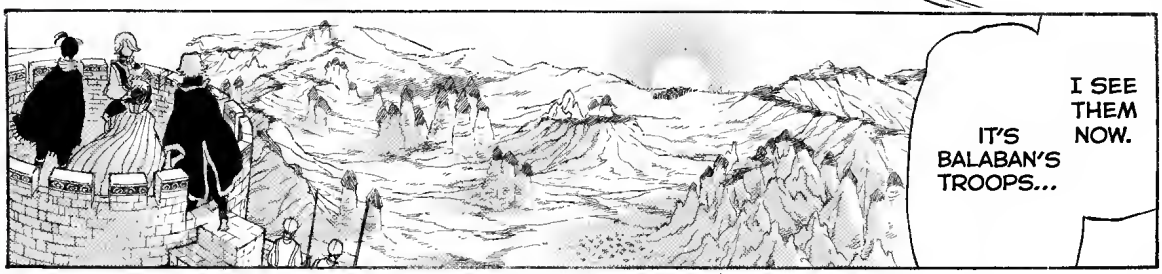
Torqye Calendar
Year 75, Biber*
31st. Imperial
Calendar Year
451, August 31st
*BIBER: MONTH OF PEPPER
The Day
of Prens
Orhan's
Wedding
TRUM
TRUM



TO MAHMUT BINBASH, FROM ZAGANOS PASHA.



THE COMBINED FORCES OF MUZRAK, BALTA, AND BUCHAK NUMBERING OVER 25,000 ARE ADVANCING ON KULUCH.



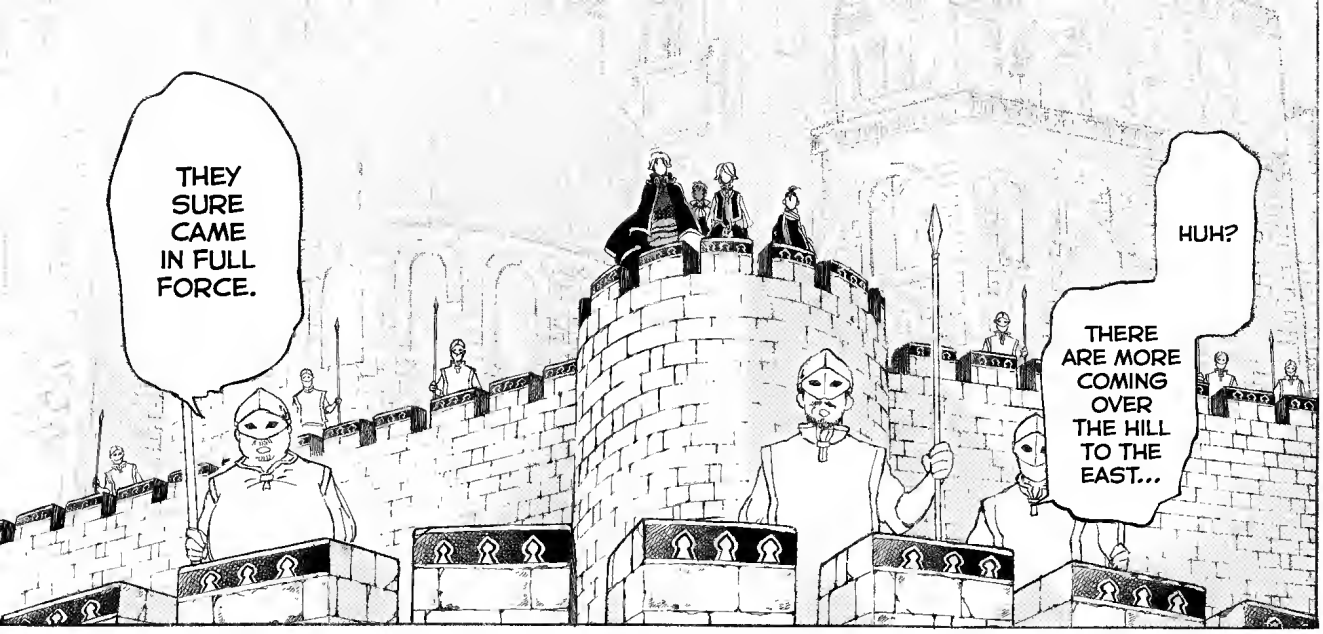
OUR FORCES WILL USE THEIR ABSENCE TO TAKE THEIR NATIONS IN ONE FELL SWOOP.

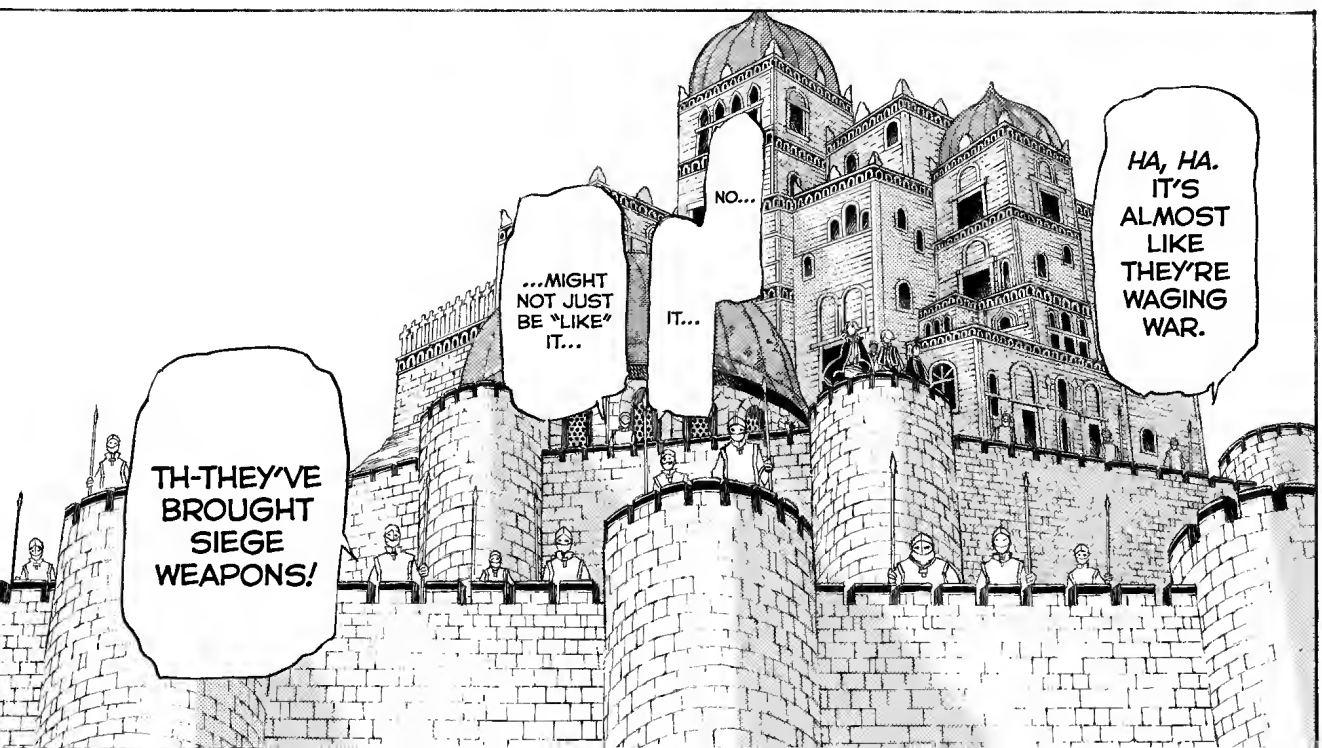
THIS IS ALL PART OF A PLAN DEVISED BY THE DIVAN MEANT TO TRAP THE SULTANS.

AS SUCH, THE DIVAN HEREBY ORDERS MAHMUT BINBASHU...

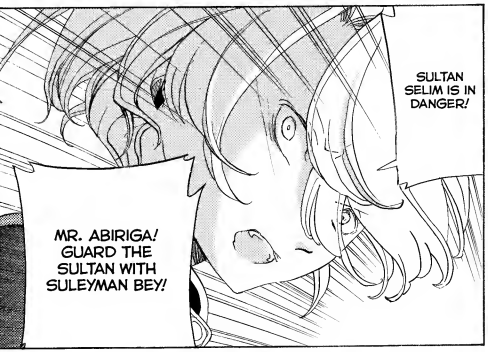
...TO STALL THE SULTANS' FORCES IN ACAYUP...

...UNTIL WE RAISE THE CRIMSON BEACON, SIGNALING THE END OF THE OPERATION!

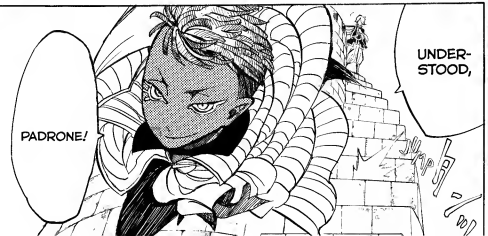

THEY SURE CAME IN FULL FORCE.
HUH?
THERE ARE MORE COMING OVER THE HILL TO THE EAST...


HA, HA. IT'S ALMOST LIKE THEY'RE WAGING WAR.
NO...
IT...
...MIGHT NOT JUST BE "LIKE" IT...
TH-THEY'VE BROUGHT SIEGE WEAPONS!

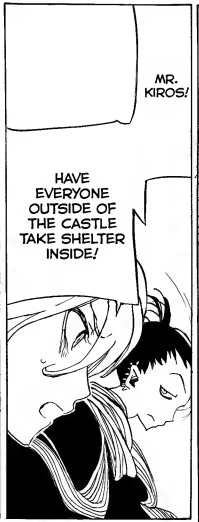
OUR PLAN WOULD HAVE AVOIDED UNNECESSARY BLOODSHED...!
WHY, ZAGANOS PASHA?!


SULTAN SELIM IS IN DANGER!
MR. ABIRIGA! GUARD THE SULTAN WITH SULEYMAN BEY!

GASP


UNDER-STOOD,
PADRONE!

SULEY-MAN BEY!
REQUEST 500 CAVALRY FROM THE SULTAN TO BE PLACED UNDER OUR COMMAND.
I'LL TAKE CHARGE AND BUY SOME TIME.

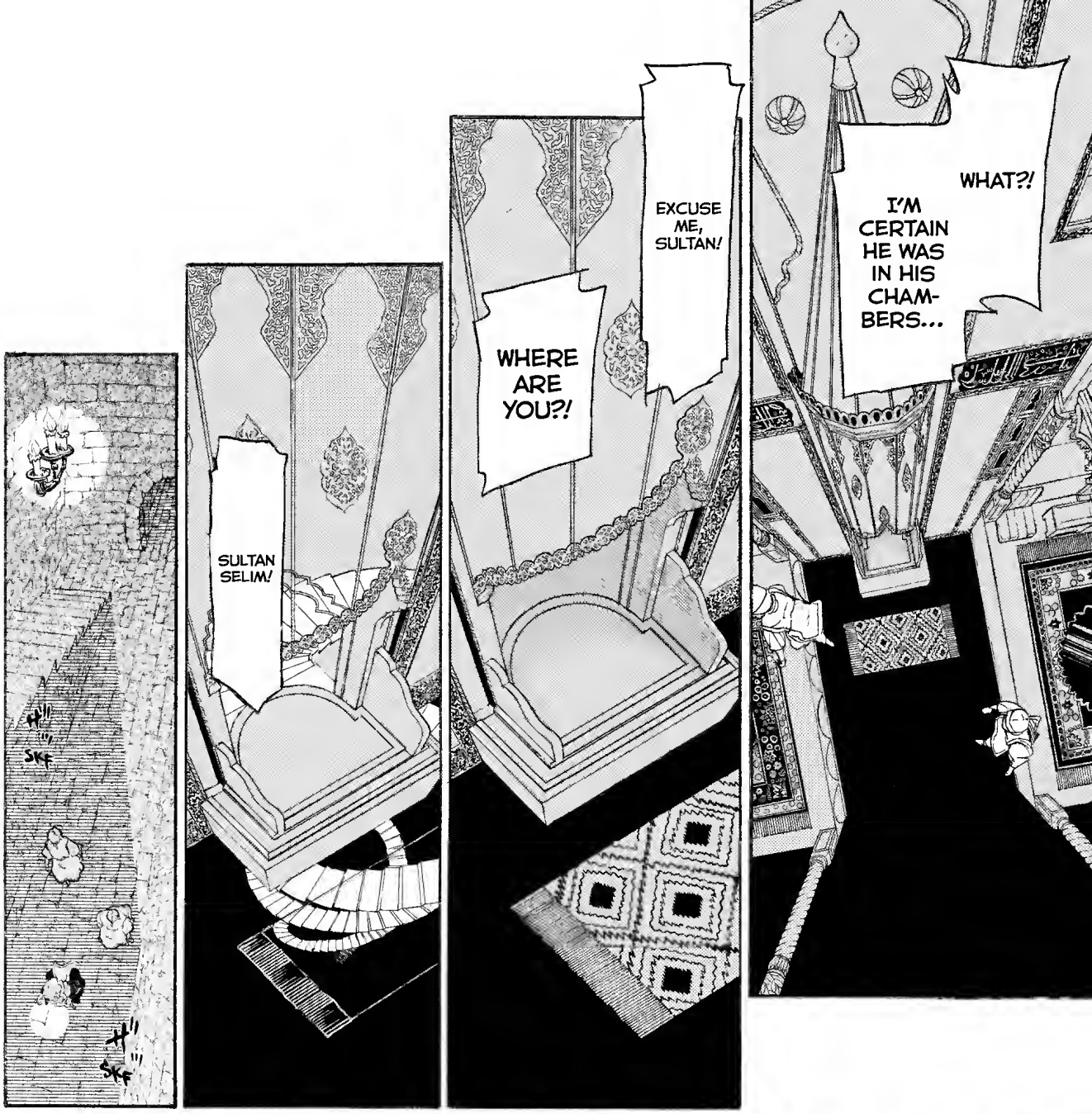

MR. KIROS!
HAVE EVERYONE OUTSIDE OF THE CASTLE TAKE SHELTER INSIDE!

NO, NOW'S NOT THE TIME.
I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT WHAT TO DO ABOUT THOSE 20,000 ODD TROOPS...

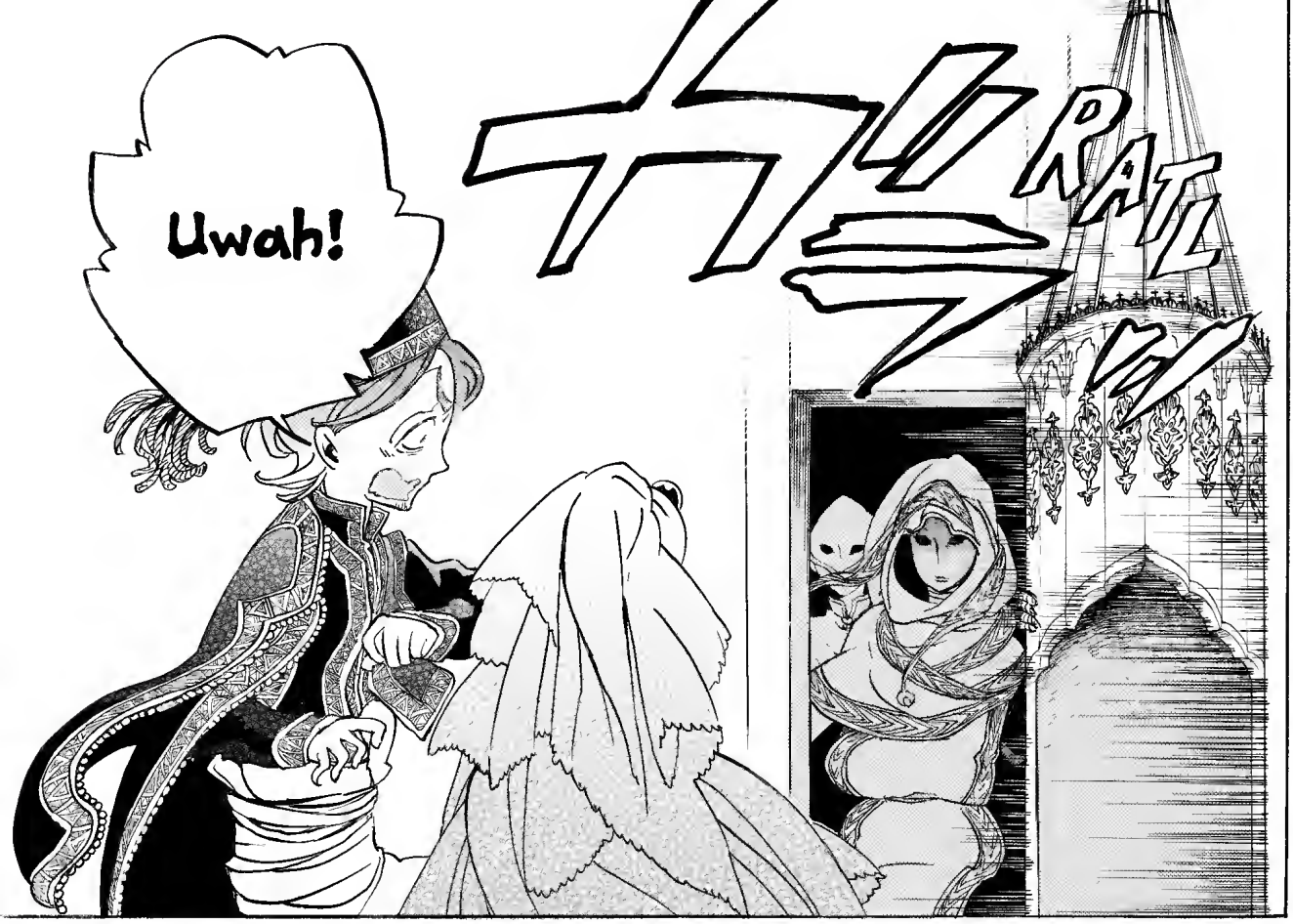
CLAK
...YOU SEND WORD UNTIL NOW?!
WEREN'T YOU WITH SULTAN UZUN?
WHY DIDN'T...
CLAK
I'M SORRY ...
WE LOST CONTACT WITH LADY ELEANORE, WHO WAS ASSIGNED TO SULTAN BALABAN.
CLAK
SO BE IT!
SHIK
CLAK
CLAK
CLAK
CLAK

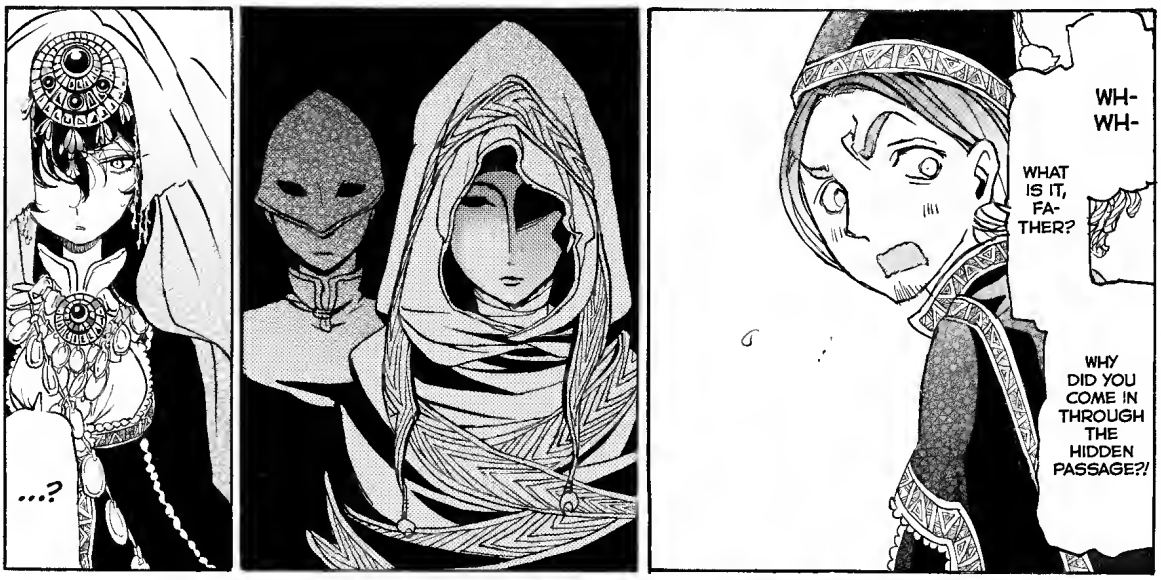
SULTAN SELIM!
YOU WILL PAY FOR SWITCHING SIDES TO TORQYE!
AT ANY RATE, THE TRUTH IS CLEAR NOW.

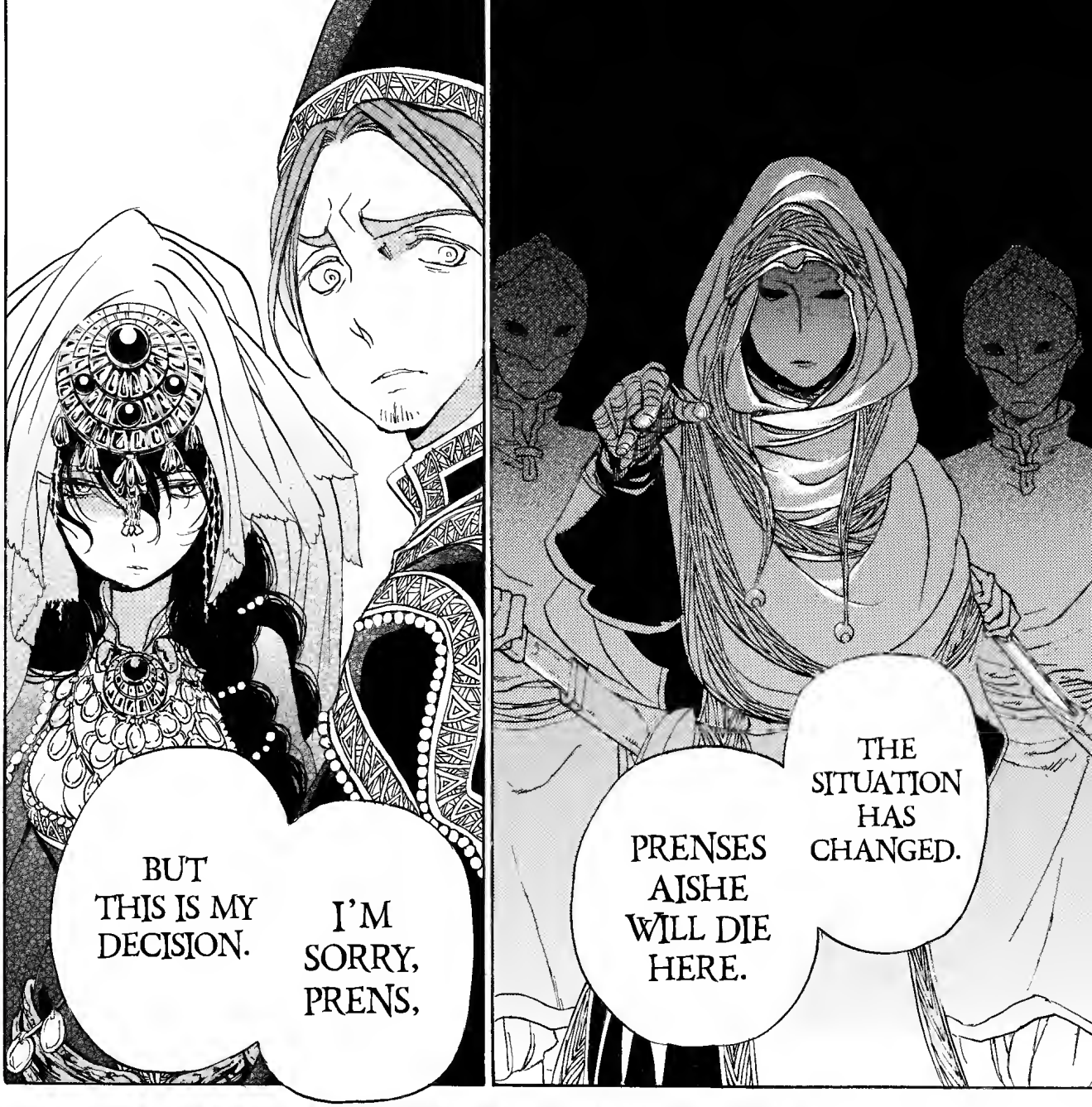
CLANK
I HAVE URGENT BUSINESS WITH SULTAN SELIM!
MAKE WAY!
BAM!
ERR...
...
HE'S GONE?

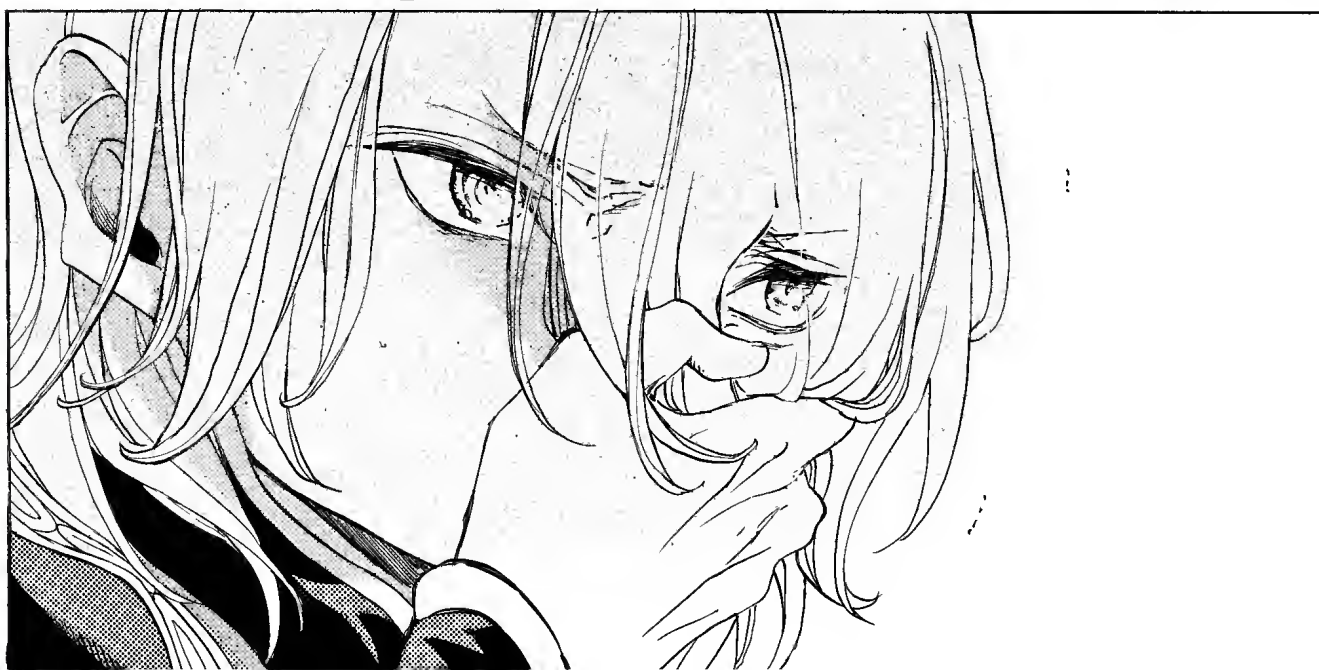

WHAT?!
I'M CERTAIN HE WAS IN HIS CHAM-BERS...
EXCUSE ME, SULTAN!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
SULTAN SELIM!
SKF
SKF

SKF

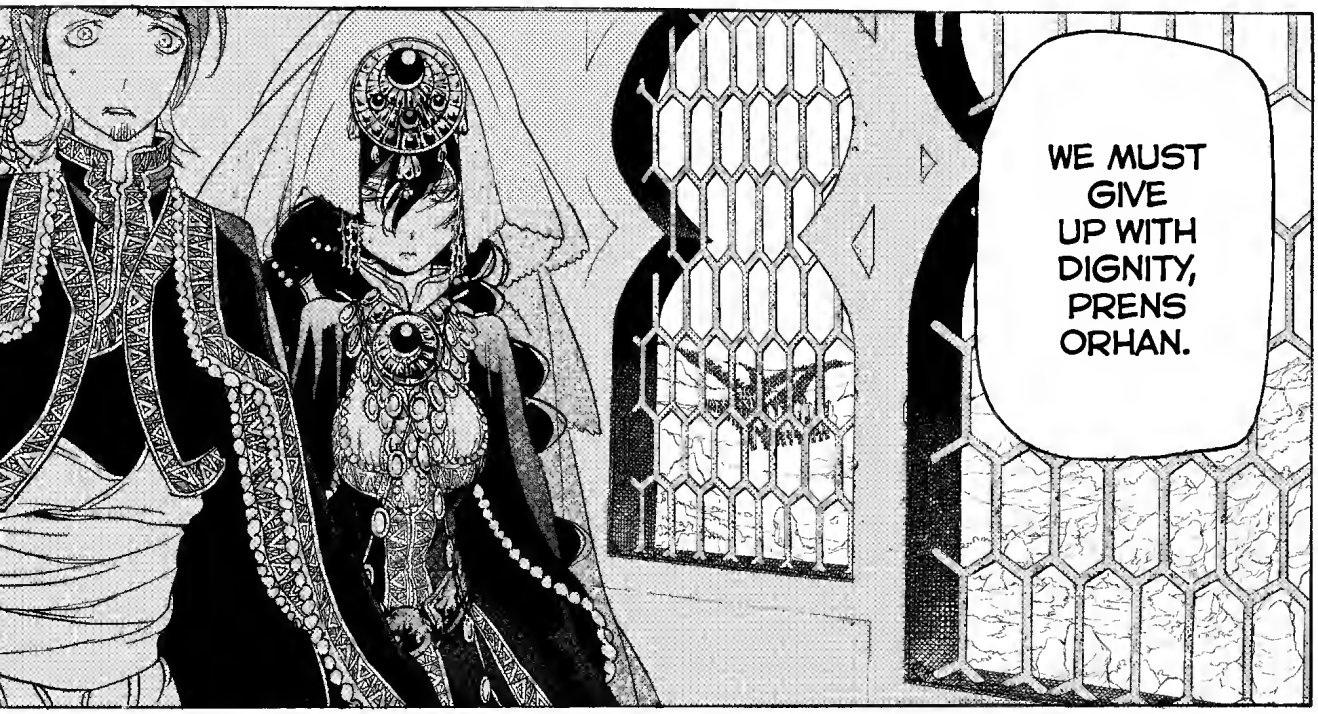

Uwah!
RATTLE


...?
WH-
WH-
WHAT IS IT, FA-THER?
WHY DID YOU COME IN THROUGH THE HIDDEN PASSAGE?!


THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED.
PRENSES AISHE WILL DIE HERE.
I'M SORRY, PRENS,
BUT THIS IS MY DECISION.



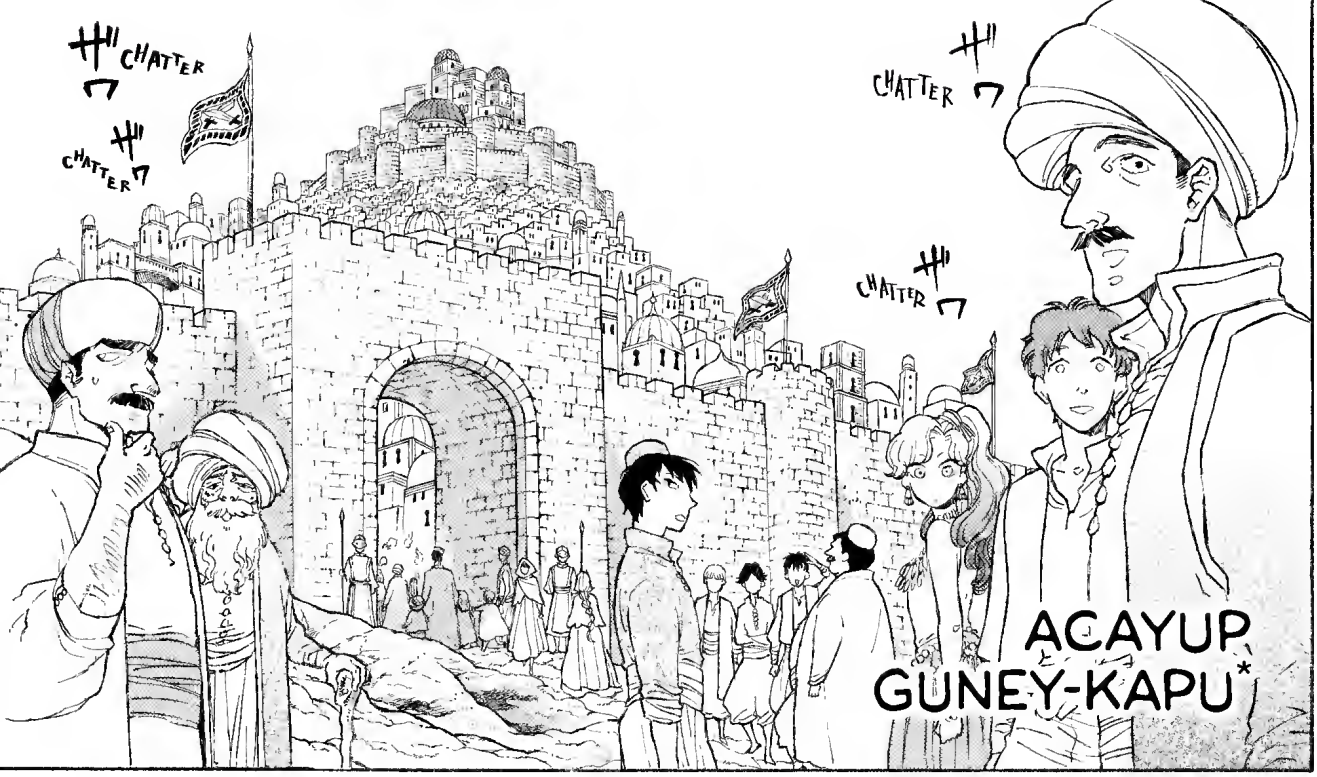
KULUCH SULTANLU
CAPITAL OF ACAYUP
CHIVIT-SARAY,
ORHAN'S CHAMBERS


WE MUST GIVE UP WITH DIGNITY, PRENS ORHAN.

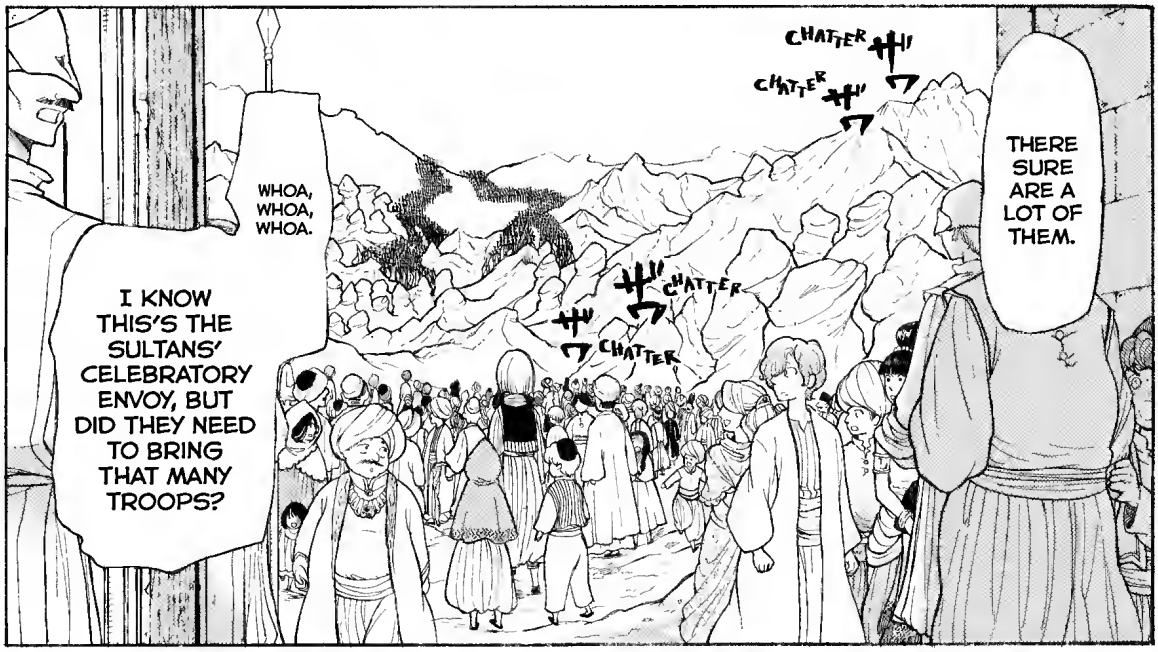
SULTAN BALABAN HAS SEEN THROUGH OUR PLAN.

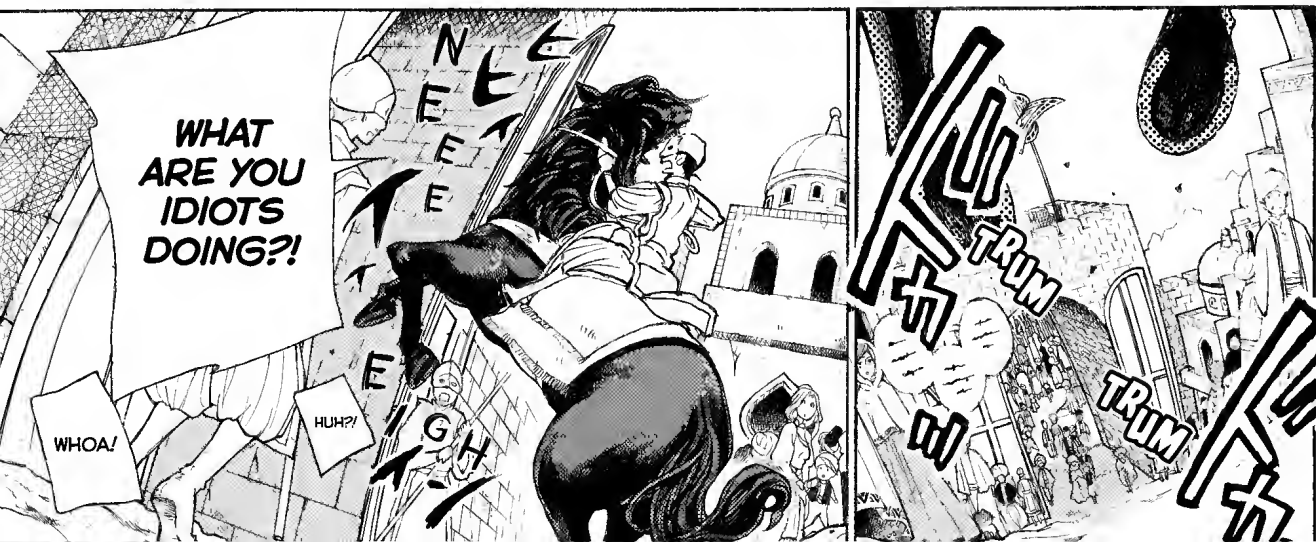
Fasıl 30 The Crown Prince of Swords
OUR ONLY OPTION IS TO QUELL BALABAN'S FURY...
...BY TAKING THE HEADS OF PRENSES AISHE AND THE REBELS.

HEY...
WAIT JUST A MINUTE, FATHER!
THIS ISN'T WHAT WE AGREED ON...
ぎゅっ
GRIP
I DID NOT EXPECT...
...I WOULD HAVE TO DRAW MY SWORD HERE.



*GUNEY-KAPU: SOUTHERN GATE





...?
WHAT...?
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
GET EVERYONE INSIDE THE GATES RIGHT, NOW!
WHO BRINGS SIEGE WEAPONS TO A WEDDING AS PARTY FAVORS?!
HUH ...?
AH...

RALLY THE TROOPS!
LEAD AS MANY CIVILIANS INSIDE AS YOU CAN!
YOU–
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME! WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE CITY!
…
ちぁ あ A A A A
あぁ A H
ALL RIGHT,
KA KYAK
ONTO THE NEXT!
CHIVIT-SARAY, THE INDIGO HALL
MY, OH, MY.
THIS CERTAINLY SEEMS LIKE TROUBLE, SILAHTAR.

LOOKS LIKE ASSASSINATION'S OUT OF THE QUESTION NOW.
...

THERE'S NO SENSE IN STANDING AROUND HERE.
...AND PREPARE FOR WHAT'S TO COME?
WHAT SAY WE MEET UP WITH YOUR TROOPS OUTSIDE OF THE CASTLE...

IF THE OTHER THREE SULTANS HAVE COME WITH THEIR FULL FORCES TO CRUSH KULUCH,
SULTAN SELIM WILL SURELY SIDE WITH THEM.
...
INDEED.

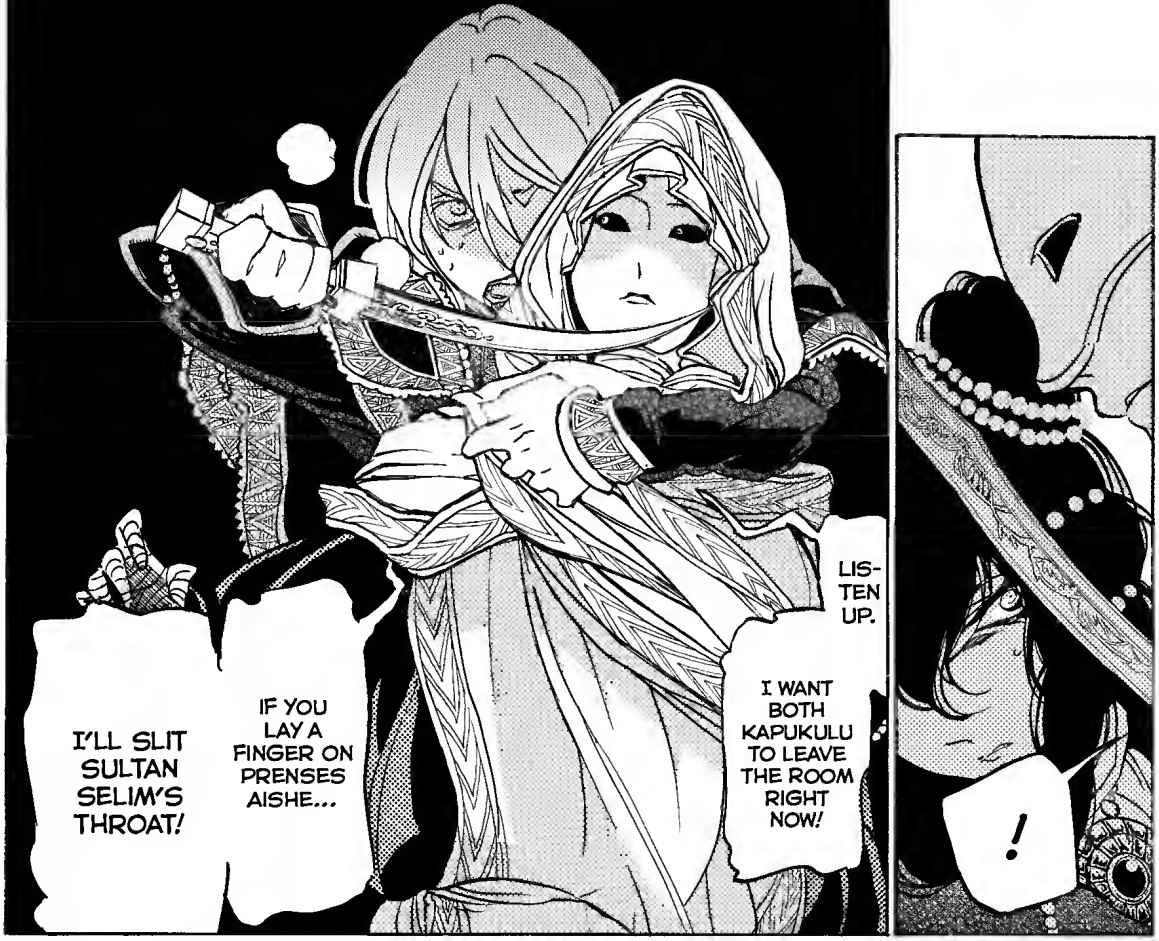
...IF WE'RE STILL IN THE CASTLE WHEN THAT HAPPENS.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO BACK OUT OF THIS GAME ANYMORE...
TUGHRIL MAHMUT, THE TRAITOR?
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE POSITION YOU'RE IN,
KAPU-KULU-AGA*!
PLEASE LEND ME 500 CAVALRY TO USE!
DO YOU INTEND TO SIT HERE AND LET THEM SUR-ROUND THE CASTLE?!
*KAPUKULU-AGA: CHIEF OF THE SULTAN'S PERSONAL GUARD.

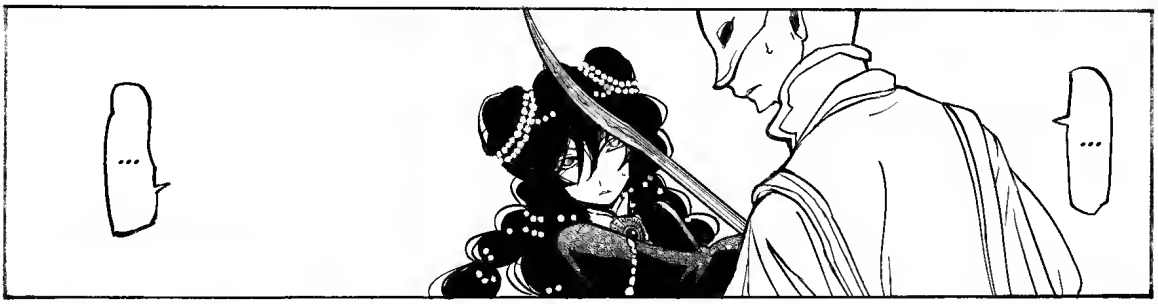
YOU CLAIM THAT SULTAN SELIM...
...HAS ALLIED WITH TORQYE THROUGH YOU.
HOWEVER,
THE SULTAN HAS TOLD US NOTHING OF THE SORT.
CLANG
?!

WE ONLY OBEY...
...THE SULTAN'S DIRECT ORDERS.
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
ERG...!
FWUMP
AH!

SKF
SKF
SKF
PRENSES!
GRAB
!
...
SIT THERE QUIETLY, PRENS.
TOSS
FWIMP
AGH!

YANK
GRAB
AH...
DON'T MOVE!
TCH!

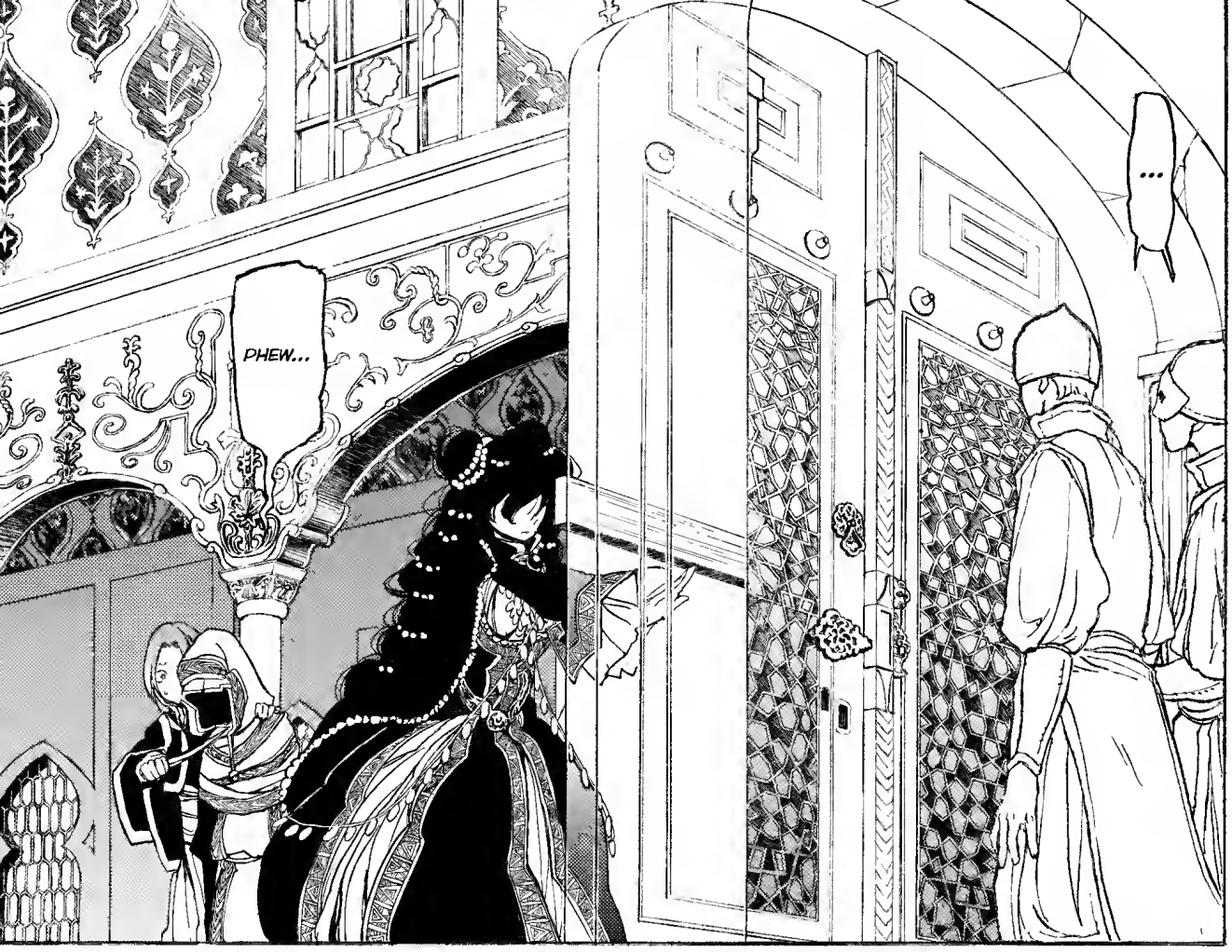

I'LL SLIT SULTAN SELIM'S THROAT!
IF YOU LAY A FINGER ON PRENSES AISHE...
I WANT BOTH KAPUKULU TO LEAVE THE ROOM RIGHT NOW!
LIS-TEN UP.
!

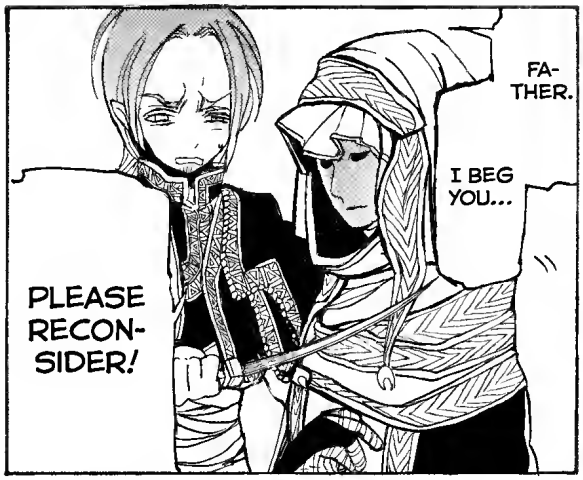

...
...

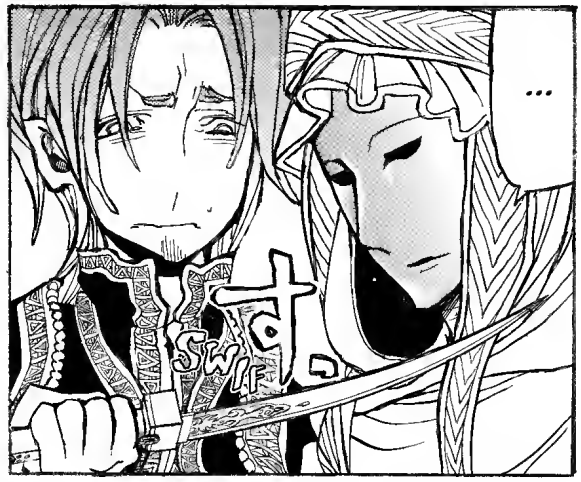
I FOUND IT!
CHIVIT-SARAY
THE SULTAN'S CHAMBERS

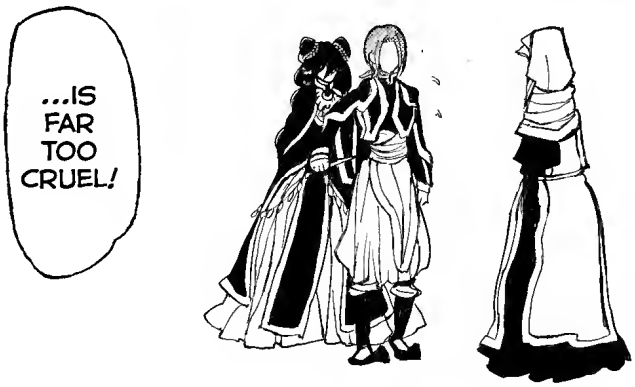
LET'S GO, HENRI!
I WASN'T AWARE THE SULTAN'S CHAMBERS HAD A PASSAGE LIKE THIS...
TO THINK SULTAN SELIM HAD SOMETHING LIKE THIS UP HIS SLEEVE.
HERE...
?!
WE MUST FIND SULTAN SELIM AT ALL COSTS AND—
UGH...
IS SULTAN SELIM THAT WAY?
?!
WH-
WHAT IS THE MATTER, MR. AMBASSADOR?!

LOOKS LIKE WE MADE IT IN TIME.
KUH...
PRENS-ES!
THUD
LOCK THE DOOR!
BAM!


PHEW...
...


PLEASE RECON-SIDER!
I BEG YOU...
FA-THER.


...
SWIF

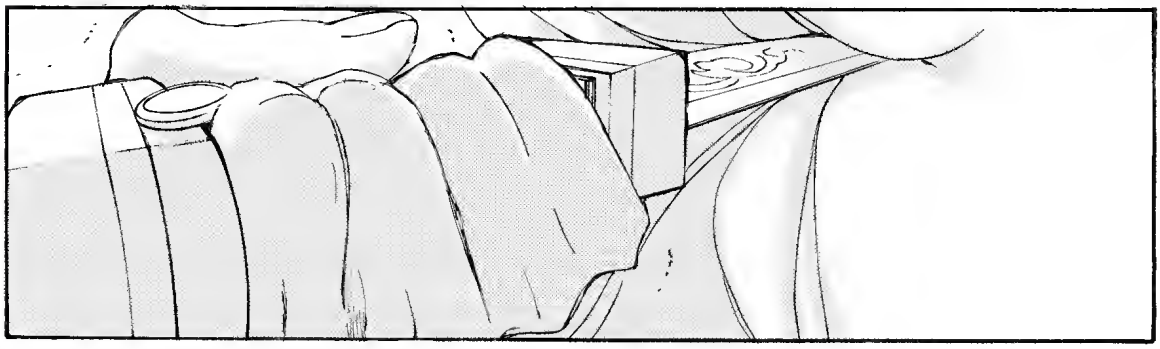

...IS FAR TOO CRUEL!
KILLING PRENSES AISHE...

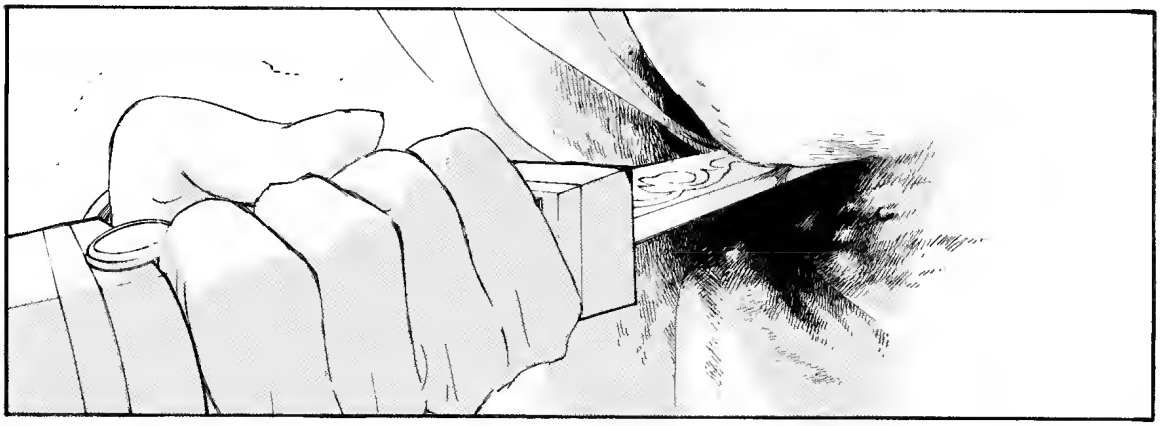
KULUCH DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THE SULTANS' COMBINED FORCES.
OUR ONLY OPTIONS...
...ARE TO PROTECT KULUCH BY TURNING OVER THE TRAITORS...
...OR OPPOSE BALABAN AND PREPARE FOR OUR INEVITABLE DESTRUCTION.
WHICH DO YOU THINK IS THE BETTER OPTION?
...

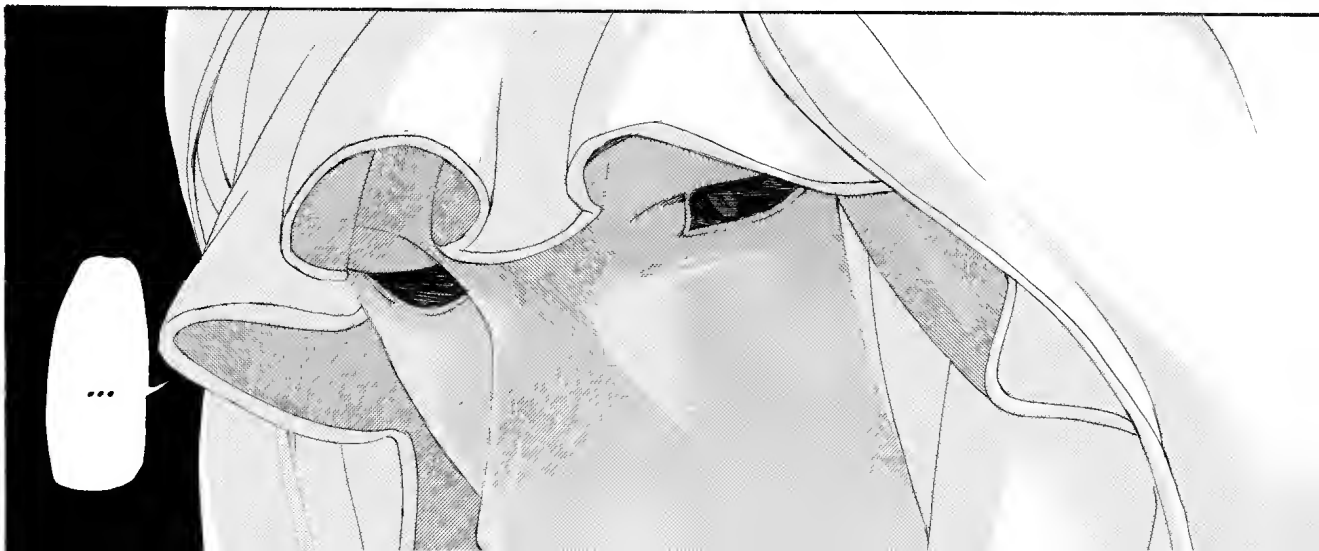
I DON'T KNOW.
...
...
I'M...
NOT LIKE YOU OR PRENSES AISHE.
I MAY BE A SULTAN'S SON,
BUT I DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING...
ABOUT WAR OR POLITICS.
I SEE...
...
EVEN SO,
KILLING PRENSES AISHE IS TOO CRUEL!

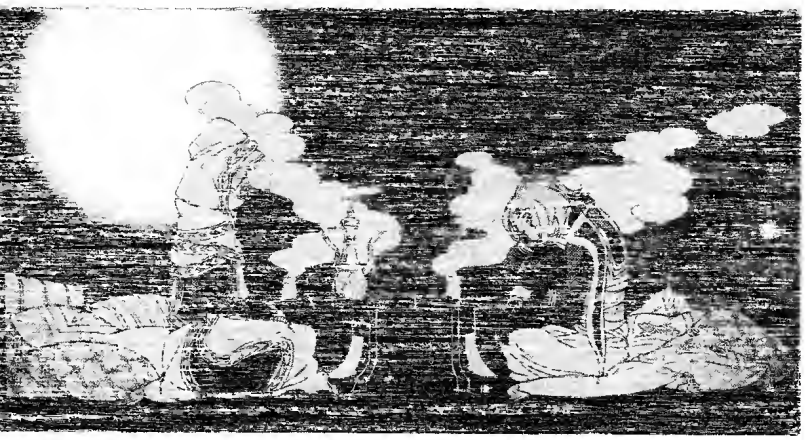
WHACK
?!
AGH!
THUD

I'M SORRY, PRENS.

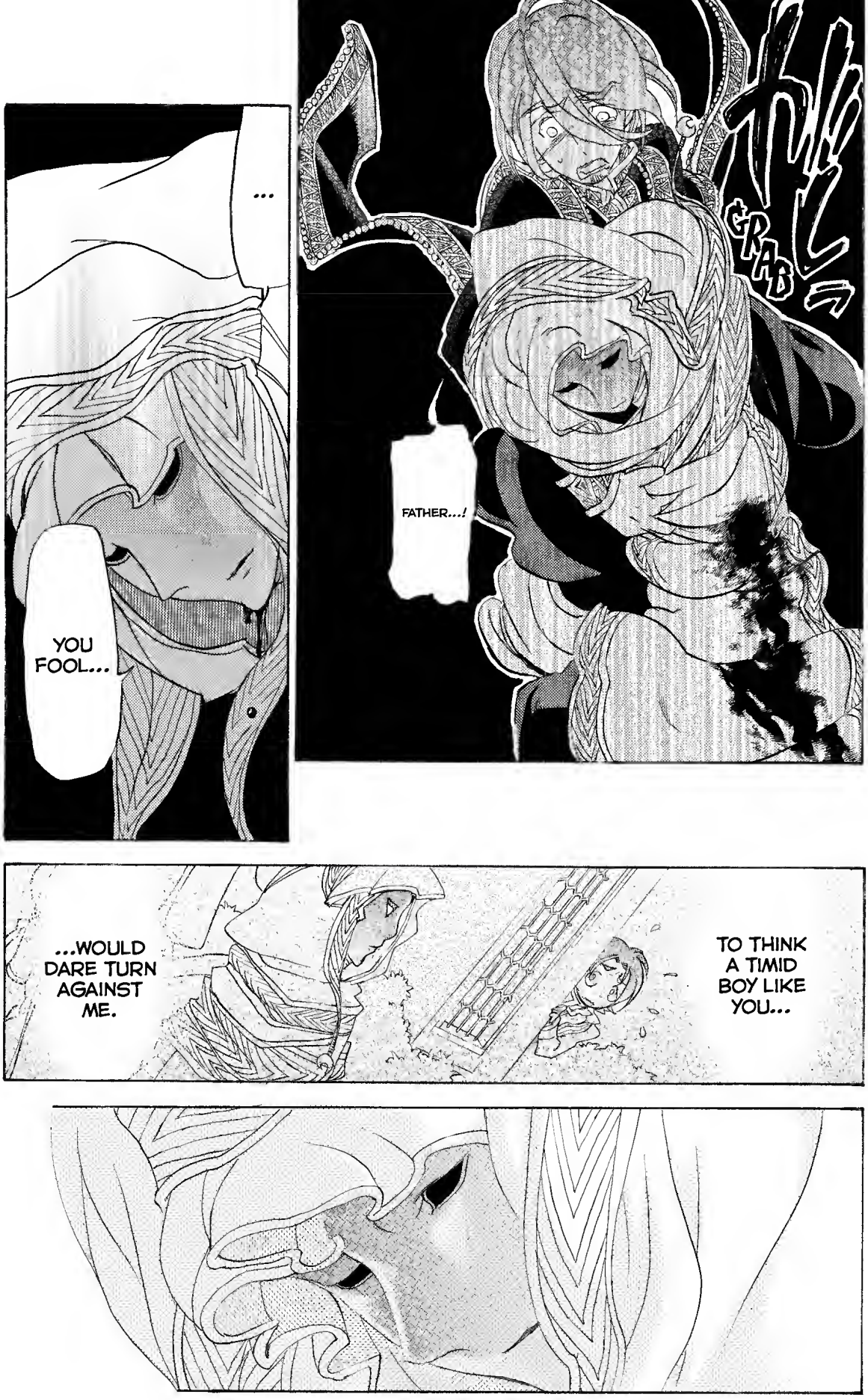


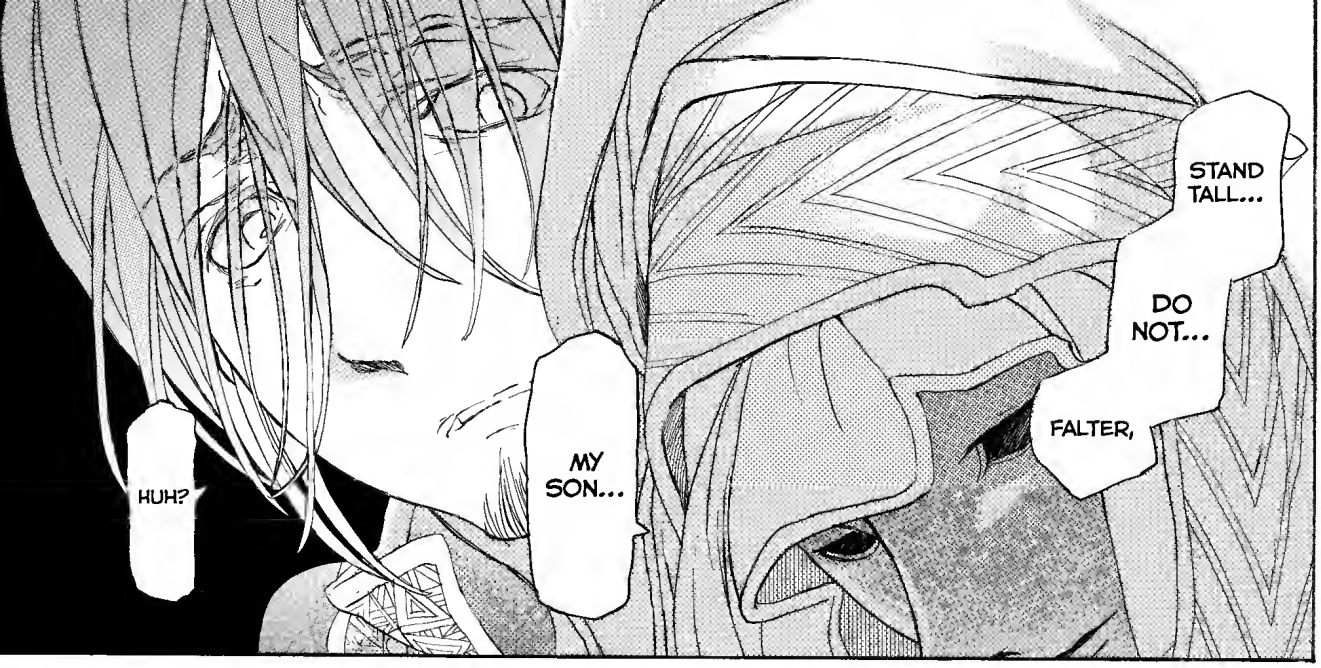


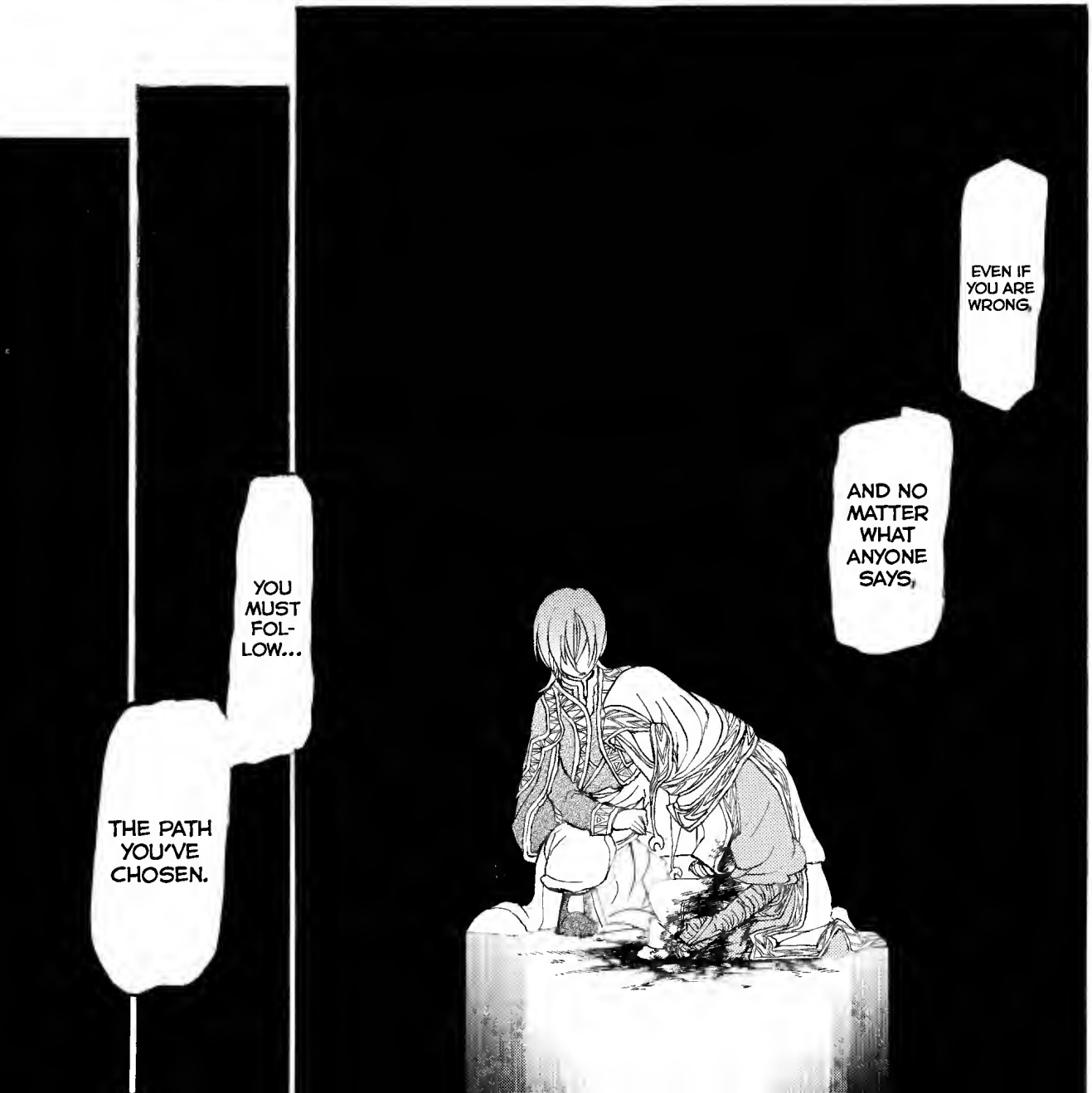




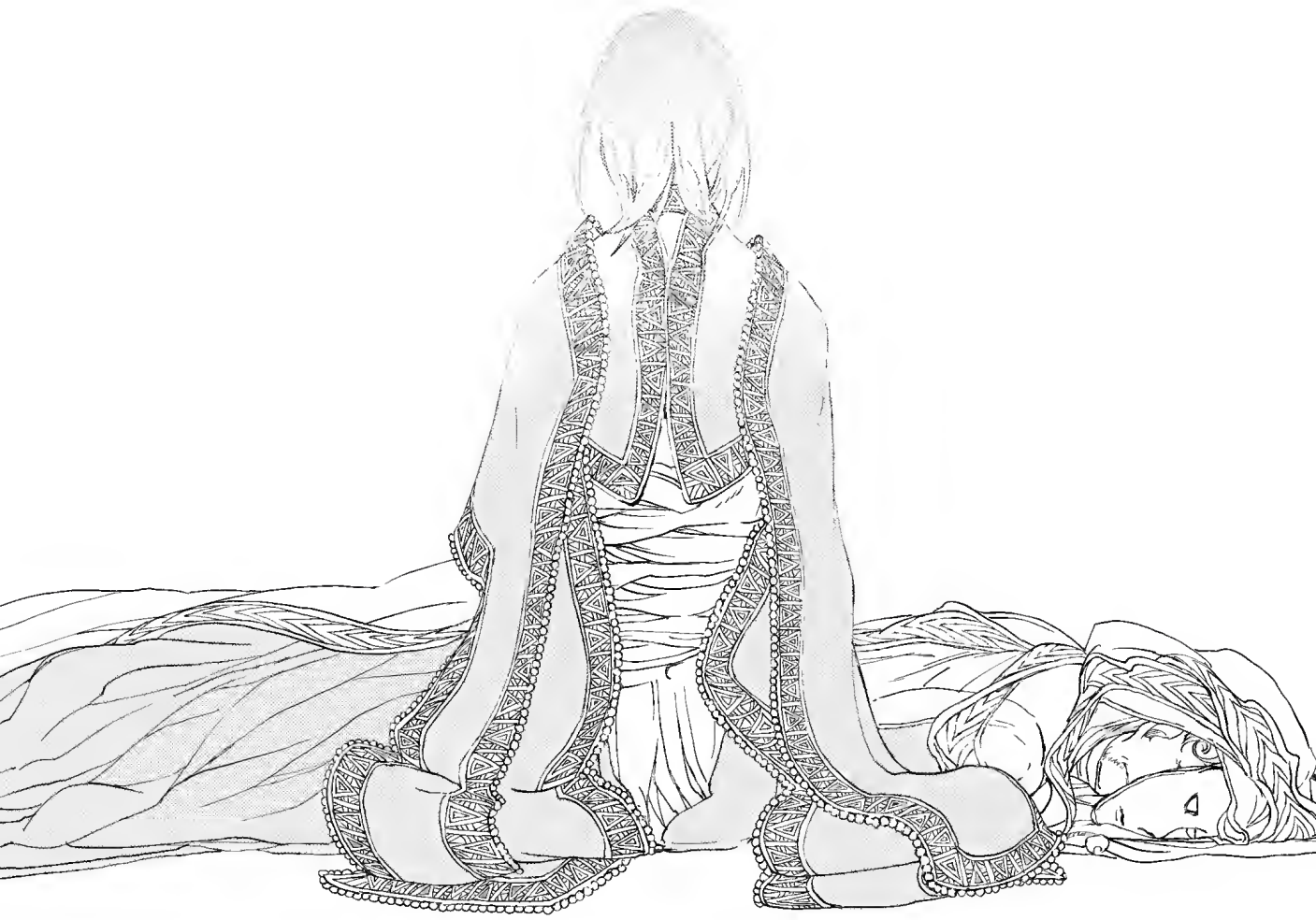
SO, THIS... IS YOUR CHOICE, IS IT?


...
YOU FOOL...
GRAB
FATHER...!
...WOULD DARE TURN AGAINST ME.
TO THINK A TIMID BOY LIKE YOU...


HUH?
MY SON...
STAND TALL...
DO NOT...
FALTER,

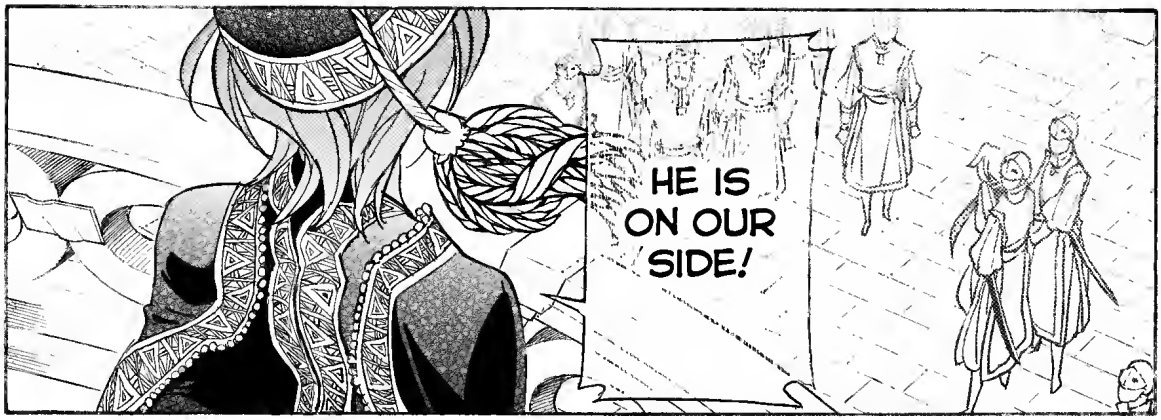

EVEN IF YOU ARE WRONG,
AND NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS,
YOU MUST FOL-LOW...
THE PATH YOU'VE CHOSEN.

...!
SULTAN SELIM!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
DASH

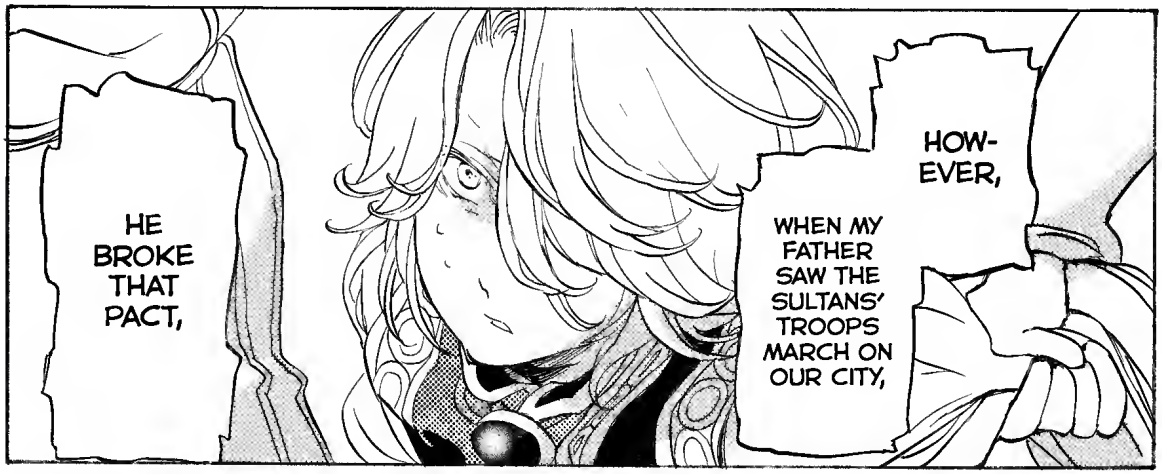


YANK
...!
TAKE MAHMUT BEY AWAY.
WAIT!
?!

RELEASE MAHMUT BEY AT ONCE!


HE IS ON OUR SIDE!

ONE MONTH AGO,
MY FATHER AND THE TORQYELI EMISSARY MAHMUT BEY...
...MADE A PACT IN SECRET!


HOW-EVER,
WHEN MY FATHER SAW THE SULTANS' TROOPS MARCH ON OUR CITY,
HE BROKE THAT PACT,

AND IN HIS COWARD-ICE HE ATTEMPT-ED...
...TO BEG FOR OUR ENEMIES' FORGIVENESS BY OFFERING THEM MY WIFE'S HEAD!

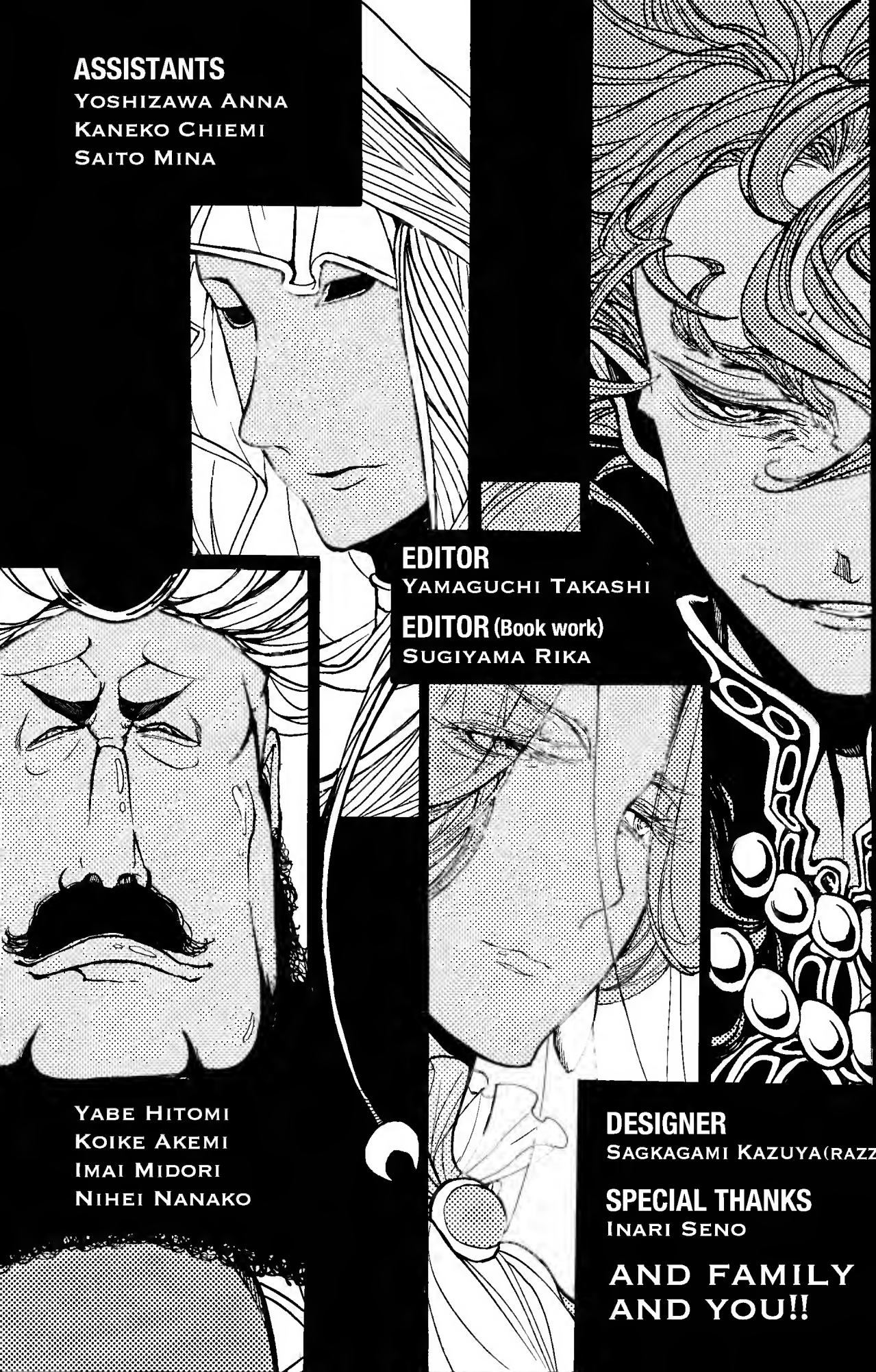
THIS DECEITFUL CRAVEN...
...I REFUSE TO CALL SULTAN!

...AND HEREBY ASSUME MY ROLE AS THE RIGHTFUL SULTAN OF KULUCH!
I HAVE SLAIN MY FATHER, SELIM...
AS SUCH,

OUR FORCES ARE YOURS TO COMMAND.
IF YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS, THEN TAKE MY HEAD HERE AND NOW.
KAPU-KULU-AGA!
BY THE GODS...
IF THE SULTAN CLAIMS THAT THERE ARE ENEMIES OUTSIDE,
THEN WE SHALL LISTEN AND OBEY.

WE KAPU-KULU...
ARE SWORN TO THE SULTAN OF KULUCH,
SULTAN ORHAN.
...
GOOD.
KAPUKULU-AGA, YOU ARE TO COOPERATE WITH MAHMUT BEY...

...IN DEFENDING OUR HOME AND PEOPLE...
...AGAINST THE ENEMIES OUTSIDE OUR GATES!
WE SHALL FIGHT BY THE HONOR OF OUR SWORDS!
RAAAAAA
AAAH
to be continued...



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SPECIAL THANKS
Inari Seno

AND FAMILY
AND YOU!!

Glossary of Terms

Aga	Chief/Leader
Binbashu	Major
Buyuk Pasha	Great General
Chadur	Tent/Camp
Chivit-Saray	Indigo Palace
Divan	The council of generals
Eyalet	Province
Idareci	Administrator
Kahvaltu	Breakfast
Kapukulu	The sultan's personal guard
Kiosk	An eastern-style room
Kolagasu	Senior Captain
Kubbe altu	Council hall
Navalat	The patron water spirit of Ermism.
Nefer	Private
Nikah	Wedding
Nishanlu	Fiancé/Fiancée
Pasha	General
Prens	Prince
Prenses	Princess
Rod Orm	A cult currently working for Minister Louis, which employs a number of crude metal weapons. The name of this cult also means "Red Snake" in Swedish.
Shurta	Elite police force
Vali	Provincial Governor
Vezir	Vizier
Yuzbashu	Captain
Yuvarlak Meydan	Amphitheater
Zira	1 zira ≈ 2.25 feet

Altair: A Record of Battles 6

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